



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

March 2025 Newsletter



Contact Us

Rev. Brian Cunningham - Pastor
Mike Metzger - Moderator
Debbie Geiser - Newsletter Editor
Vicky Smith - Church Secretary
Church Office - 302-674-1980
Email - info@fbcdover.org
Calendar - last page

Visit the
First Baptist Church website at
<http://www.fbcdover.org>

**The First Baptist Church
of Dover**
will gather in the sanctuary for
worship
on Sunday,
at 11 AM.



Church Office Hours
Monday 8:00 - 2:00
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As I step into this new season with you, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I join you at a sacred time - **Lent**, a season of reflection, renewal, and preparation. Just as Jesus journeyed through the wilderness, we too are called to a time of transformation, trusting that God is shaping us for what lies ahead.



The wilderness is often a place of challenge, yet it is also where God refines us, strengthens us, and reveals His power. It is a place where faith grows, where old ways are shed, and where new life begins. As a church, I believe God is calling us to step forward in faith, embracing the work He is doing in our lives and our community.



At the heart of this journey is unity. We are one body, bound together by Christ's love. In John 17, Jesus prays for His followers to be united - just as He and the Father are one. As we walk this path together, may we strengthen one another, encourage one another, and extend grace in the way Christ has shown us. When we stand together in faith and love, there is no challenge too great, no obstacle too daunting.

With this foundation of faith and unity, I look to the future with great hope. God has a vision for our church—a vision of growth, renewal, and deepening discipleship. I pray that together we will seek His will, trusting in His power and plan. The road ahead may bring unexpected turns, but we serve a faithful God who leads us with wisdom and love.

As we continue through this Lenten season, may we open our hearts to God's transformation. Let us be a people who listen for His voice, walk in His truth, and embrace the new life He is preparing for us. I am honored to walk this journey with you and excited for all that God has in store.



***With faith and gratitude,
Pastor Brian C. Cunningham***



PASTORAL *Installation*

**OF PASTOR
BRIAN C. CUNNINGHAM**



WHEN: March 29, 2025

TIME: 3PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOVER

**301 Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904**



"God is in Control"

Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."

Knowing God has a plan for our lives is very important. Putting our faith in God's (hands) allows us to trust that the events in our lives are meant to be. It helps us to make choices that must be made and realize things are really not out of control – they are under His control.

I don't know about you and your family, but I have been struggling with processing all the changes that are going on within our congregation. Sadness in saying 'Good bye' to Rev. Guy and his family to joyfulness as we welcome Pastor Brian and Cecile (Ce Ce) into our family. A lot of changes for sure! But, through it all we need to remember that God knows every detail of this journey that we are on and that His way is the best way!

Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven; a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..."



Dear Lord,

You created a time for each season. You mastered a plan of cycles that allows endings and beginnings to flow together. As we live through these seasons trying to adjust to them, I pray that we will keep our eyes and focus on You!

Lord, we are facing changes right now and we need to allow ourselves a chance to weep. But as we go through this transition, please give us laughter so your joy can touch our souls.

Amen

Deb Metzger



Men's Shelter Meal Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Shelter in February 12, 2025! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The meal contribution sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. March's menu includes: fried chicken, collard greens, baked beans, dinner rolls and brownies. Please deliver your contributed food item directly to the shelter at 1155 Walker Road, between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!



The ladies of FBC enjoyed a retreat on the 22nd of February, 2025. We watched a film entitled “I Heard the Bells,” a film about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his journey of faith. After a welcome and devotional, we played a “bell” game. We had to tell what the bell was used for, all 19 of them. We discussed the movie and then carpooled to the Smyrna Diner to lunch together. It was a very relaxed morning talking about the faith of others and us.

During our business session, we kicked off our project for the year---selling our delicious Easter Eggs. We need your support and participation to send children to camp this summer. Our project is explained on the back of the egg order form. We know the eggs are very rich and some are not able to eat them or wish to eliminate the calories in them. If either of those reasons holds you back from ordering them, you can still participate in our fund raiser by donating to the cause. Just see any of our ladies or use the forms in the newsletter to donate or order the eggs. Also, anyone who would like to help make the eggs, sign up on the poster in the narthex. Please hand the forms in at the Welcome Center. Thank you in advance for your help with this worthy cause.



We thank you in advance for your support in this project.

Sue Moore



Mary Bonar Circle

**Faye Yarbrough is a missionary
to the South Africa
Leader: Beryl Gerhard**

March 4, 10:30 ~ Fellowship Hall



Joyce Reed Circle

**Joyce is Global Coordinator of
Spiritual Care
Leader: Margaret Steinhoff**

March 1, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall

Ann Clemmer Circle

**Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo - Goma
Leader: Lois Glading**

March 6, 1:00 ~ Fellowship Hall





Easter Egg Order Form



Name _____

Address _____

Sales Person _____

Flavor	White Chocolate	Milk Chocolate	Dark Chocolate	Total
Butter Cream				
Coconut Cream				
Chocolate Coconut				
Orange Cream				
Strawberry				
Chocolate Cream				
Peanut Butter				

Cost - \$3.50 each or 2 for \$6.00. Please put payment with your order.

Make checks payable to “ABWM of FBC”.

Total # of eggs _____ Total cost _____

Orders are due by March 16th.

**Don't forget to ORDER your Chocolate Easter Eggs.
(Pick up of eggs will be April 13.)**

ABCOPAD—WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

2024-2025 REGIONAL PROJECT

Who: Richard Bunker

What: Youth WINNday Camp (at the back side of the track)

Where: PARX RACE TRACK, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

WHEN: SUMMER 2025

HOW: Our generous ladies and churches across ABCOPAD!



During the days of Youth Camp, kids will play team sports and games, eat meals together, share in times of prayer, hear Bible stories and sing songs. Inspirational Christian crafts will be made. Each child (ages 6-13 with older youth as he(pers) will receive an age-appropriate Bible and a basic electronic tablet preloaded with Bible Apps. These Apps will include quality, edifying videos, games and places they can read and hear enriching stories and the Bible. The expected impact of this program is for young people to hear the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a wider, fuller family engagement through what the children are able to take home. Parents and relatives of the children will be encouraged to participate in the entire 10-day program as well.

Chaplain Rick envisions them learning about the joy, power and goodness of God through this experience. His desire is to make disciples, then continue nurturing and arming those new disciples for the many challenges (media, school, schoolmates, etc.) that will beset them in their lives. The proposed budget is \$14,000.00 to reach an expected number of 100 children. Would you or your church be willing to ensure that 1 child has this opportunity to meet Jesus as their Savior? \$140.00 will meet that need! Let's do our very best to invest in their eternal futures!



Birthdays

John Kelley, Jr.	3/03
Rose Tumey	3/03
Daniel Macklin	3/04
Theresa Thornburg	3/05
Brian Jones	3/08
Joel Guy	3/10
Marsha Kemp	3/10
Chris Cottrell	3/12
Lisa Clark	3/13
Yassah Dennis	3/16
Nana Gambo	3/17
Denise Engelsen	3/18
Scott Septer	3/20
Harrison Peoples	3/21
Sue Moore	3/26
Kaymah Gilman	3/27
Bill Williams	3/29
Brian Cunningham	3/31



Comfort Shawl Ministry



The next meeting will be March 17 and we will be meeting in the Conference Room at 1:00. These faithful ladies continue to knit, crochet, and sew prayer shawls to give our infirmed members and friends some warmth with prayer. If you're free the third Monday of each month at 1:00, please join us as we share fellowship and stitches for those who need a bit of comfort.



**Join our Church
Services
Online**

YouTube.com at
First Baptist Church of Dover DE

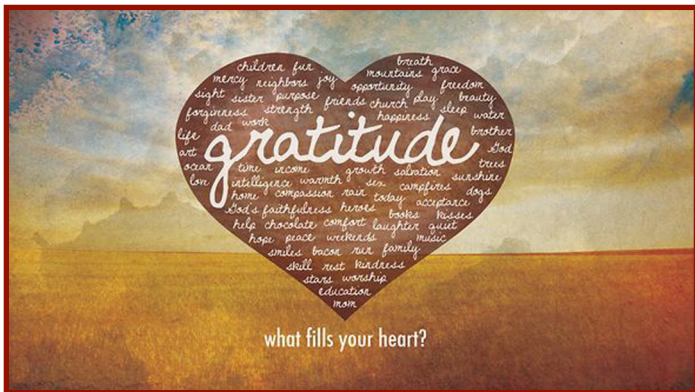
Anniversaries

Ernie and Adelle Aloï	3/5	4 years
Aaron and Charity King	3/11	19 years
Donald and Ramona Scott	3/16	40 years
Norman and Lisa Clendaniel	3/17	47 years

Ash Wednesday

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Genesis 3:19



March 9th

**Don't Forget To Set Your
Clocks Forward**



So You're Not Late For Church!



SEARCH COMMITTEE News

We would like to thank all of the members who helped with Rev. Guy's Appreciation Luncheon by providing food or muscle to clean up afterwards. I'm sure he felt blessed seeing everyone's participation in this special event. We wish him and Tremaine the best of blessings in their new endeavor. We will be praying for their new ministry.

We also hope everyone will open their arms to show their support of our new pastor, Rev. Brian Cunningham and his lovely wife Cecile. It'll be a joyful experience getting to know them better as they continue to grow in God's love.

The Search Committee is almost done but not quite yet. We have one more event to plan and that is the Installation of our new minister. Watch your bulletins and the Welcome Center for the date and time of that very special time in the life of Pastor Brian.



throughout the month of March, as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News? Use the envelopes in the pew racks. Checks should be payable to First Baptist Church and marked "AFC".

Thank You!

Lois Glading for the Board of Missions

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist,

March is America for Christ Offering month. This year's theme, "Grace upon Grace: Grace in Times of Turbulence" is inspired by Ephesians 4:32 (NIV): "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you." This passage stresses the importance of letting go of anger and moving forward with love. As Matthew 6:14-15 reminds us, our heavenly Father will forgive us if we forgive others. God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2025 America for Christ Offering (AFC) which aims to raise \$1,000,000 or more to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. The AFC offering supports American Baptist regions, churches, and community partners across the USA and Puerto Rico by funding ABHMS grants for a variety of purposes, including:

- + Creating new, innovative ministries
- + Developing church leaders
- + Aiding children who are impoverished
- + Supporting the work of chaplains and spiritual caregivers
- + Promoting discipleship
- + Preserving critical American Baptist spaces
- + Making higher education more affordable through scholarships

In addition:

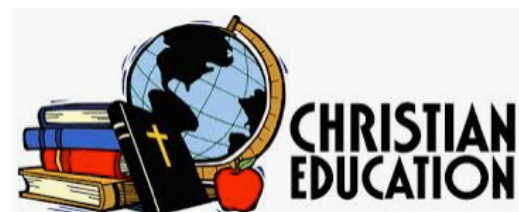
- + Our church is eligible to apply for grants and our church members for scholarships
- + ABHMS retains no AFC Offering funds for operations or overhead.

AFC 2025 will empower us to provide "Grace upon Grace". Won't you join me in giving generously to AFC



Women's Shelter

The Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing has announced that their shelter for homeless women and their children, Interfaith Pathway, opened on February 3, 2025. The shelter is located down the street from First Baptist at 1156 Walker Road and across the street from the men's shelter, Walt Bagley Hall. Please be in prayer for the women and children who will reside there temporarily and the staff. The Board of Missions will be exploring ways we can support this ecumenical ministry.



Board of Christian Education Meeting
March 13, 2025, 3:00 PM



The Giving Tree Donations

(January – February 2025)

Thank you for all who donated so generously to our Code Purple drive . On behalf of Board of Missions, Terry Lentz

Items donated:

41 Pair of Socks	5 Hats	2 Two piece Jogging Suits	5 Adult Coats
4 Children Coats	8 Pair of Gloves	3 Hoodies	6 Shawls/Scarves
2 Shirts	6 Sweaters	4 Sweatshirts	12 Blankets
1 Pair of Jogging Pants	1 Sleeping Bag	2 Scarf/Glove sets	3 Pair of Pajamas
1 Jacket	2 Tee Shirts	1 Pair of Pants	
1 Pair of Long Johns	1 Dress	Large bag of assorted batteries	



Calling All Kids ages 5 through 12!!!!

Friday, March 14, 5:30 p.m.to 7:30 p.m.
In the Church Fellowship Hall
We will be Celebrating the Feast of Purim.

Learn about the Jewish celebration of Purim!
It originated in the Bible. Do you know where?

Come explore all about it on the Feast of Purim Holiday
celebration March 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship
Hall. You are welcome to bring a friend.

There will be snacks, crafts, learning games and fun
galore! We hope you will join us. Bring your parents.
They are welcome to join us in this celebration!

*Here's What's
Happening at
our Church!*



**About the church or one of our
programs? Stop by the Welcome
Center for the answers.**

ATTENTION

*Read all about it!
Don't forget the
deadline for
newsletter
submissions is the
15th of each month.*



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at
secretary@fbcdover.org



*Don't forget to pick up your
Chocolate Easter Eggs!!*



If you are interested in directing or just volunteering for a particular event, please contact us. We have a lot of talented people throughout our church that can help in various aspects of our events from planning, publicity, purchasing, set-up and leading.

We welcome your involvement!




Sermons are now available on the church's website, fbcdover.org under the title "Sermons". Or, if you prefer, you may request a CD copy of a Sunday's sermon by contacting the church office.



Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion by providing the worship service flower arrangements? If so, please contact the church office at 302-674-1980.

Here's what's happening in March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall)
2 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	3	4 10:00 Bonar Circle (Fellowship Hall)	5 Ash Wednesday 4:00 Deacons (Library) 7:15 Prayer Call	6 1:00 Clemmer Circle (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	7	8 10:00 Missions (Conference Rm)
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	10	11	12 11:30 XYZ (Chaiyo) 4:00 DIMH Dinner 7:15 Prayer Call	13 3:00 Christian Ed (Library) 7:00 Sanctary Choir	14 April Newsletter Articles Due 	15 9:00 Coordinating Committee
16 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	17 1:00 Prayer Shawl Meeting (Conference Room)	18	19 10:00 Egg Making  4:30 Deacon's (Library) 7:15 Prayer Call	20 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	21	22 10:00 Egg Making 
23 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	24	25	26 10:00 Egg Making  7:15 Prayer Call	27 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	28 10:00 Egg Making 	29 3:00 Pastoral Installation of Pastor Brian Cunningham
30 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	31	<p>How would you prefer to receive your newsletter? In vivid color on the website (http://www.fbcdover.org) or black & white in the mail. To respond, one may contact the office at 302-674-1980 if the preference is by mail. Please be sure we have your current email address.</p>				