



# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

September 2025 Newsletter



## Contact Us

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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**

## ***Greetings First Baptist!***

September is a month of new beginnings and joyful anticipation at FBC Dover. As the academic year restarts for many of our young people, it's a perfect time to reflect on how much God has taught us over the years—and how we are called to apply those lessons as we move forward. Just as a student must carry the knowledge and skills learned from previous years to succeed at the next level, we too are called to carry the faith, wisdom, and experiences God has given us into the future He has already prepared.

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



This year, our church celebrates a historic milestone—our 175th anniversary! Our theme, inspired by 1 Corinthians 2:9, reminds us: ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*** From generation to generation, God has faithfully guided FBC Dover, and His plans for our congregation are still unfolding. As we celebrate the past, we are reminded that the lessons of yesterday equip us for the mission of today and the promises of tomorrow.

This anniversary is a time to honor the legacy of faith passed down to us, celebrate the vibrant ministry of our congregation today, and look forward with hope to the future. I encourage each of you to participate in the anniversary events, reflect on God's faithfulness in your own life, and consider how you can actively carry forward what He has taught you. Together, we can step confidently into this next chapter, equipped with the wisdom of the past and the hope of all that God has prepared.



May this season of beginnings and celebration remind us that God's work in our lives and in our church is continuous—and that ***the best is yet to come.***

Blessings,

**Pastor Brian C. Cunningham**

# *175th Anniversary*

*Celebrating the Past, Growing into the Future:  
From Generation to Generation*



*Based on 1 Corinthians 2:9*

*Saturday September 6th, 1:00 ~ 3:00 PM*

*"A Walk Down Memory Lane"*

*The anniversary banquet & program from 3:00 - 6:00 pm*

*The Sunday morning service will celebrate the present and future!*





***“Why do bad things happen to good people?”***

***Why indeed?*** A thought which has plagued the mind of believer and non-believer since creation, it can at times be hard to look upon the plight of some people and still believe there is a benevolent, all loving, all caring God of creation. When we view images of masses of poor people struggling simply to survive another day, or hear stories of children being neglected and/or abused, we, or at least, I have a tendency to question the degree to which an all knowing, all-seeing God truly cares.

The truth is God does care. In Romans 3:23 we read, “for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” We live in a fallen world, we are fallen, I am fallen. By its fallen nature evil is present in our world and on account of this suffering and injustice will visit both the believer and non-believer. The Bible is clear none of us by are own means is justified, or good, but rather we merely are forgiven. That God chooses to bless us at all speaks to his mercy, and that God sent his son to die for mankind evidences the depth of his love for us.

God cares greatly and God loves infinitely, but the God that loves us enough to sacrifice his Son for us, also respects the freewill that he allows to govern his creation.

As believers our challenge is to give thanks even in the midst of trials, and to cling ever tightly to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God doesn’t promise that he’ll remove all of our hardships, nor does He promise prosperity and peace in this life, but what he does offer is a comforter through our earthly turmoil and a

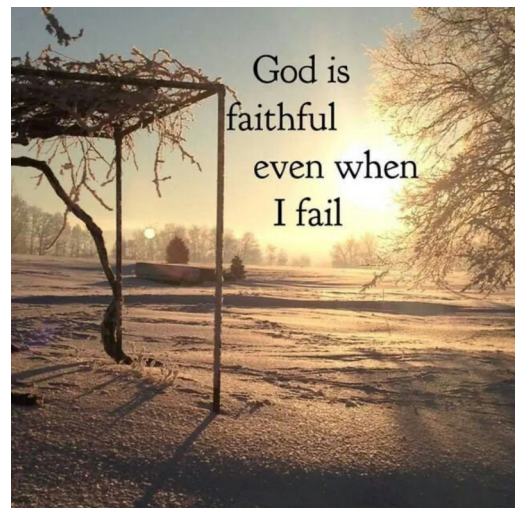
pathway past our fallen nature and to an eternity with him, Jesus Christ.

Why do bad things happen to good people? The question is a matter of perspective. The truth is we are not good, simply forgiven, and we should never cease to give thanks to the God of eternity for the mercies he shows us daily.

***Thank you, Jesus!***

***Mike Metzger***

**BE  
Grateful  
& GIVE  
Thanks**







# Birthdays

Debbie Metzger	9/2
Mary Stewart	9/9
Aaron King, Jr.	9/10
Betty Perkins	9/18
Lisa Clendaniel	9/22
Lorraine Leavel	9/22
Glenda Case	9/25
Carolyn Akers	9/28

# Anniversaries

George and Rosemary Schuler	14 yrs	9/3
Dick and Gloria Smith	69 yrs	9/7
Gene and Thelma Schaller.	62 yrs	9/21
Scot and Michelle Septer	35 yrs	9/22

Sanctuary Choir Practice resumes on Thursday, Sept. 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us to help praise the Lord in song.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl meetings will begin again on September 15th at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your summer tales and any shawls completed during the summer so we can tag them.

Don't forget to tell us of anyone who needs a shawl for comfort and prayers. We have an ample supply.

## Men's Shelter Meals to resume September 10, 2025



Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Shelter in August 2025! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, September 10, 2025. The meal contribution sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. Please deliver your contributed food item directly to the shelter at 1155 Walker Road, between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!



**Join our Church Services Online**

YouTube.com at  
First Baptist Church of Dover DE



The board met on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, to finalize our ABWM Sunday plans. We are planning to have only women participate in the service. Faye Yarbrough who is a missionary to South Africa will be our speaker. Our special music will be a combined choir of women. All

women are invited to sing with us. Faye spoke once before to our congregation. She was very interesting at that time. I'm sure she'll be terrific this time as she presents not only the sermon but the Kids Korner message.

All circles will meet the first week in September. The Bonar Circle will meet on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00, led by Beryl Gerhard. The Clemmer Circle will meet on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, led by Lois Glading. The Reed Circle will meet on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30, led by Margaret Steinhoff. If you are not a member of our circles but would like to see what we're all about, call one of the circle leaders to find out where they're meeting and join them for their meetings. We'd love to have you see and hear about all we're doing.

*Sue Moore*



### **Mary Bonar Circle**

Faye Yarbrough is a missionary  
to South Africa  
Leader: Beryl Gerhard  
Sept. 2, 10:00  
Fellowship Hall



### **Joyce Reed Circle**

Joyce is a missionary for  
Global Coordinator of  
Spiritual Care  
Leader: Margaret Steinhoff  
September 6, 11:30  
Fellowship Hall

### **Ann Clemmer Circle**

Ann is a missionary to Eastern  
Congo - Goma  
Leader: Lois Glading  
September 4, 1:00  
Cox Parlor



# International Flavors



# Thriving Hearts



## STEWARDSHIP

The title of this year's campaign is "International Flavors, Thriving Hearts: A Potluck Stewardship Gathering". We will be featuring covered dishes from our ladies. Instead of charging for the meal this year, we will be asking the ladies to prepare a dish from their native country that will serve 8 to 10 people. We're also going to send reminders and devotions via email to save paper both in the bulletin and in the newsletter. We've enlisted Vicky Smith to help with the decorations. She came up with some great ideas to liven up Fellowship Hall. The luncheon will be after church on November 2. Pastor Brian has some marvelous ideas also for our program.







## Great joy – Great news!

# Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, founded by Franklin Graham. It runs September 7- November 9. This project is worldwide and sends gift filled shoeboxes to children given in Jesus' Name at Christmas. Each week Shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex starting Sept 7 with literature on how to pack the box and what you can put in your shoebox. Select if it's for a girl or boy and what age, label provide in shoebox. When you have filled your shoebox, return and place on the bench in the Narthex by November 9. Enclose or mail a \$10 donation to help with shipping and processing, an envelope is included. The dedication of the shoeboxes will take place November 16 in our church service and then be transported for collection November 17. Questions can be directed to Abby Eaton

732-404-7866.

([Smaritanpurse.org/cc](http://Smaritanpurse.org/cc))





# Short-Term Mission Opportunities - Mexico 2026

## Serving in La Paz & Los Planes, MX

**Service Weeks 2026** - As part of his sabbatical in 2026, Rev. Eric Kraihanzel will be leading multiple short-term mission weeks to La Paz, Mexico. Each week will be full of meaningful service opportunities as groups connect with amazing ministry partners located in La Paz and Los Planes, MX. The primary focus of the short-term trips will be to help Pastor Juan Carlos Varela and the congregation of Casa De Dios in Los Planes, Mexico, finish their church building. Other areas of ministry may include visiting an orphanage, creating game nights for children, helping with an equestrian program for special needs children, and engaging university students in English/Spanish conversations.



Casa De Dios, Los Planes, Mexico

### Mission Week Opportunities:

February 21 - 28

February 28 - March 7

April 25 - May 2

May 2 - May 9

October 24 - 31

October 31 - November 7

**A Week-long experience:** Groups will arrive on Saturday at San Jose Del Cabo airport and then travel north about two hours to La Paz. Saturday evening, we will have orientation, worship, and dinner. On Sunday morning, we will worship at Casa De Dios and meet Pastor Juan Carlos and the church family. We will serve at the church or with other ministry partners Monday through Thursday. Friday will be a day of relaxation and adventure, where you can experience the sights and sounds of La Paz. On Saturday, the group will head home.

**Who can come?** We hope to have between 10 and 14 adults participate each week. This could include individuals, church groups, or a blended group from one of our Baptist associations.

**Group Leader:** As noted above, Rev. Eric Kraihanzel will be leading the short-term mission opportunities as part of his sabbatical. He has been leading short-term mission trips since 1992. For the past ten years, he has been visiting Mexico about two times a year to participate in mission opportunities with ministries in La Paz and the surrounding communities. He will provide leadership and coordination for each week.

### Cost per individual - \$900.00

The \$900.00 will cover Lodging, Food, Ground Transportation, Materials & Logistical Support.

\*Flights are not included in the price.

**Lodging:** We will be staying at [Casa Buena Bed and Breakfast](#), located in La Paz, Mexico. The accommodations are wonderful, and there is an in-ground pool to cool off in after a long day of hard work.

**Flights** - Groups or individuals will need to secure their own flights to Mexico. There are two options for airports in the region: 1. La Paz International Airport (LAP) or 2. San José del Cabo International Airport (SJD).

**Information:** For more information, please contact Rev. Eric Kraihanzel. You can email him at [revejk@gmail.com](mailto:revejk@gmail.com) or call him at 610-462-5714.



**Church Plant Project**  
**Casa De Dios, Los Planes, Mexico**

The overall project at Casa De Dios will entail the following:

***Outside the building -***

- Complete the outdoor kitchen  
general construction, stucco, & painting
- Gardening & creating an outdoor  
fellowship space

***Inside the building -***

- Level and tile the sanctuary floor
- Finish the ceiling in the main sanctuary  
with drywall, paint, wiring, lights, etc...
- Install two sets of exterior doors
- Demo a wall to open up for more interior  
space.
- Provide funding for four additional A/C  
mini-splits.



The Sanctuary at Casa de Dios needs to be completed.



Start of the Outdoor Kitchen



Worship at Casa De Dios



*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@fbcdoover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdoover.org)



*for everything there is a season and  
a time for every matter under heaven....  
He has made everything beautiful in its time*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-11*



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, [fbcdoover.org](http://fbcdoover.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 September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  <b>Labor Day Church Office Closed</b>	2  10:00 Bonar Circle (Fellowship Hall)	3  <b>7:15 Prayer Call</b>	4  1:00 Clemmer Circle (Cox Parlor)  6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	5	6 11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall)  1:00-6:00 175th Anniversary Celebration
7  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Service Kids Konnection	8  10:00 Stewardship (Conference Room)	9	10 11:30 XYZ (McGlynn's) 12:00 Bible Study 4:00 DIMH Shelter Meal 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	11  3:00 Christian Ed (Library) 5:00 Worship Committee (Zoom Meeting) 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	12	13  10:00 Missions (Conference Room)
14  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Service Kids Konnection	15 October Newsletter Articles Due  1:00 Prayer Shawl (Fellowship Hall)	16  10:00 Staff Relations (Conference Room)	17  12:00 Bible Study 2:30 Constitution Committee (Library) 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	18  2:30 Pastoral Care (Cox Parlor)  4:30 Deacon's (Library) 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	19	20  9:00 Coordinating Committee (Library)
21  9:30 Sunday Schoo 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Sunday Worship Kids Konnection  ABWM Sunday	22	23	24  12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	25  6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	26	27  10:00 Sunday School Teachers Training
28  9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Service Kids Konnection	29	30				

## 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.