



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

December 2025 Newsletter



Contact Us

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



As we come to the close of another year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of God. Through every moment of this year, God has walked with us, carried us, and kept us. We can truly say that God has been good to us. I am grateful to serve here at First Baptist Church and grateful for each of you who

make this church a loving and vibrant community of faith.

This month we enter the Advent season, a sacred time when we celebrate the arrival of Jesus many years ago in Bethlehem. The prophet Isaiah declared, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6). Advent reminds us that God gave us the greatest gift imaginable when He sent His Son into the world.



But Advent also points us forward. Just as we celebrate His first arrival, we now wait with anticipation for His second arrival when Christ will return in glory. This season invites us to live with expectant hearts, trusting that God is still working, still moving, and still preparing great things for those who love Him.

*Jesus our
greatest Gift*



He brought us salvation!

As we reflect on the gift of Jesus, may we posture our hearts to give as God has given to us. Giving is part of who we are spiritually because it reflects the nature of our generous God. Scripture reminds us, *“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). God gave freely, so now we give freely to others. May our generosity this season shine as a witness to the love of Christ within us.

May this Advent season renew our gratitude, strengthen our hope, and inspire our giving as we celebrate the indescribable gift of our Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian C. Cunningham



“Let Peace Begin With Me”

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

As the world greets us with new violence, new tragedy every day, this song keeps popping into my mind. A sweet, simple melody with sweet simple words. However those words are so profound, that causes me to think that I have a responsibility.

What can I do to help change the negative rhetoric, flood of violence, the hate speech. Am I part of the problem? How can I be part of the solution?

What does it mean to pursue peace? What steps/objectives are measurable?

The hard part is to be truthful with myself and do a self-check! For example, when engaged in a conversation/discussion do I feel the need to win for selfish motives and become arrogant, obnoxious, ugly, and perhaps unlikeable? Or do I stop and make eye contact and listen to the others' points of view? Am I respectful? Do I diffuse a situation by finding an element of agreement? Do I demonstrate kindness, forgiveness, love?

Today, this song has been performed all over the world by artists and groups from every genre of music. We especially hear it during the Christmas season and its message/ theme is Biblically based.

When Christ was born the angelic chorus sang, “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14)

Among the final words of exhortation that Jesus gave the apostles before going to the cross, was his promise of peace. “Peace, I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (IN 14:27)

Following the resurrection, Jesus commissioned the apostle with a message of peace, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” (IN 20:21).

Where is peace? Why is it lacking? And how is it attained?

The Bible says we must “pursue the things that make for peace” (Rom. 14:19) Peace begins with me. In my heart. My soul. My life.

Peace begins when we seek restoration with God and find justification by faith (Rom. 5:1). Peace is a personal responsibility. It is the fruit of the spirit I must work to develop (Gal. 5:22). And “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those that make peace.” (3:18). Right living comes first, then peace!

Let the words by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson touch your heart and sink deep into your soul:

Let there be peace on earth!

And let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth.

The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father

Brothers are all we.

Let me walk with my brother!

In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me.

Let this be the moment now!

With every step I take

Let this be my solemn vow –

To take each moment and live

Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth!

And let it begin with me!

Some passages taken from internet sites on “Peace”

Submitted by Gerri Lee



By the time this newsletter is posted, the church should be all decorated for the Advent Season to honor our Savior, Jesus Christ. The ladies from your circles took on this loving task on November 25th. Many thanks to Harry Anthony and Norm Clendaniel for putting up the trees and all ladies for the decorating.

On November 3rd, our ladies joined with the other ladies world-wide in prayer for each other. During the Circle meetings, Margaret Steinhoff explained what the Baptist Women's World-Wide Day of Prayer was all about. We took a collection to send to the international headquarters to be used to help the ladies in need. Thus far that total is \$95.00.

The board will meet on December 9 at 10:00 to discuss the retreat planned for January 31st from 9:00 to 1:00. Each circle will be celebrating Christ's birth at their monthly meetings in December. Check with the circle leaders, Lois Glading, Beryl Gerhard, or Margaret Steinhoff, for the times and places.

Sue Moore



Mary Bonar Circle

Faye Yarbrough is a missionary to South Africa

Leader: Beryl Gerhard

**December 9th, 11:30,
Meeting at Joyce Buckley's Home**



Joyce Reed Circle

Joyce is Global Coordinator of Spiritual Care

Leader: Margaret Steinhoff

**December 6th, 11:30,
Meeting at Piazza Mia**

Ann Clemmer Circle

Ann is a missionary to Eastern Congo - Goma

Leader: Lois Glading

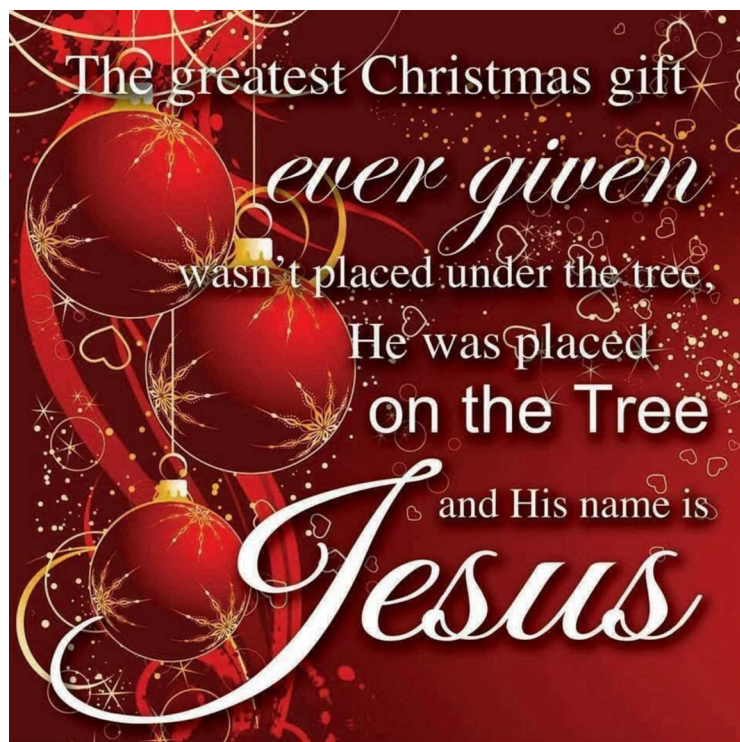
**December 11th, 1:00,
Meeting at Pat's Select, Smyrna**





Our task is done for this year. Agnes Robinson will be adding up the pledges to give the total to the finance committee so they can plan the budget for 2026. If you've forgotten to hand in your pledge card, it's not too late to do so. Agnes will gladly take them.

We do want to thank each one who came to our luncheon on November 2nd and, especially, those who shared their talents with us. It was an enjoyable and relaxing fellowship time for all of us who attended. Thanks to the great cooks who brought their country's dishes. No one should have left hungry. Everything smelled and tasted delicious!



'O Come let us adore Him'

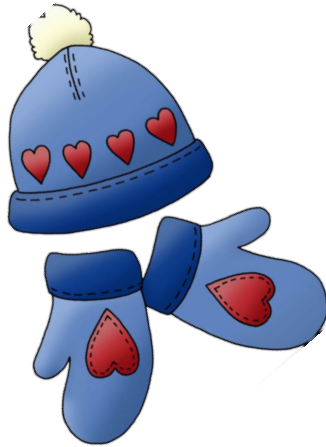


***Sanctuary
Flowers***

Starting Sunday, December 14th, order forms for Sanctuary Flowers for 2026 will be available at the Welcome Center. The cost will be \$50.00 for two vases. When you pay for your flowers, write "Flowers" and the date they are for in the memo section of your check. It can be placed in the offering plate. Please complete ALL sections on the order form and place it in the designated box at the Welcome Center or mail it to the church office. You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. This is on a first come, first served basis, so please do not wait to place your request. Also, please complete a separate sheet for each date requested. Your gift of flowers is a contribution to the church and is greatly needed and appreciated. FYI: Some flowers are more expensive (i.e., roses). Form on p.13.



Looking ahead, the Board of Missions will be collecting in January to mid-February, new and used clothing in good condition for Code Purple - Coats, jackets, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hoodies, thermal sets, socks, knit hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens.



FBC Christmas Caroling
at local Senior Centers, Assisted Living
Facilities, Nursing Homes, and
homebound FBC members

Saturday, December 13th, volunteers will be meeting at the FBC parking lot at 1:30 pm, and will be divided in small groups. Each group will visit a different location to reach all the places at once. At the end of the evening, all participants would gather at church for hot cocoa and Christmas cookies! Look for the sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center.

Contact Iris Caban at (813) 727-6535, for more information on these events, and thanks for your endorsement!



Pointsettias
for the
Sanctuary



It is already time to be thinking of the upcoming Advent Season and ordering Poinsettias to help decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Center starting November 16th.

The last day to place an order for a Poinsettia will be Dec.

14th. The cost this year is \$16.00 per plant. Directions are on the order form page 12.

Thank you

Food Pantry Wish List:

It's time to start thinking about the 25 Christmas food baskets for the Division of Family Services' families this year. We will need the following food items to fill the baskets:

Boxes of Stuffing
Cranbury Sauces
Boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes
Packages of Gravy
Cans of Green Beans
Cans of Corn



Please make sure to check the expiration dates on the products so that the items are good through at least January 2026. Thank you.

Romeo and Milda Limson, Food Pantry Coordinators

Christmas Tea ~ December 7th, 4:00 PM

The Christmas Tea this year will be a little early – December 7th due to a special happening on December 14th. We will start the service at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have special Christmas type things. There will be traditional Christmas foods and drinks that we normally have. We will sing carols and other items for the seasonal Christmas time. There will be a signup sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up so we can be prepared to serve you.



Milford Community Band

Presents

An American Christmas



Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

1019 N Walnut Street,

Milford, DE

3:00 P.M.

Free Concert

Donations Welcome
and Appreciated

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

301 Walker Road,

Dover, DE

3:00 P.M.



This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.



Birthdays

Jerusha Yarsiah	12/1
Suzanne Murr	12/8
Vicky Smith	12/9
Norman Clendaniel	12/14
Tetee McIntosh	12/15
Sam Geiser	12/25
Jim Kerr	12/28
Ernie Aloï	12/29
Emily Saunderson	12/31

Anniversaries

Ray and Alice Murphy 12/19 39 yrs.



*Join our Church
Services
Online*

YouTube.com at
First Baptist Church of Dover DE



Wednesday, 7:15pm
Telephone Prayer
Meeting



If you are available during the day, XYZ will be meeting on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30am at Mike & Mel's. Please register on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or call the church office to let us know you will be attending. We have a lot of fun and fellowship. Please join us!



THANK YOU to each person who filled one or more of the 72 shoeboxes (more than 2024) for Operation Christmas Child. Some child, somewhere in the world, will be thrilled and will hear the message of Jesus' love for them. Pray for the recipients! A special thanks to Abby Eaton and Donna Hutchins who coordinated this project!

Board of Missions



Rennie Quibble's Repast

The afternoon of December 14th will be the Celebration of Life for our friend Rennie. She has been gone from us for a few months now and she has been missed. She always had a witty poem for a celebration. It was an honor to be included in one. Rennie donated funds for her meal so people didn't have to spend time and monies of fellow church members. There will be a signup sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up so we can be prepared to serve you.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Each Year a Christmas Card is designed by a member of our church and is sent out to everyone. If you would like your name to appear on the card, it is suggested that you take the money you would use to send cards to those in the church and donate it to this project. A check can be made out to First Baptist Church, indicating in the memo "Christmas Card Project" and your envelope # and place it in the offering. The money received is sent to our 5 Special Interest Missionaries, whose names will appear inside the card, as well. There will also be envelopes for this project available at the Welcome Center starting Nov. 17th. Please be sure to indicate how you would like your name to appear on the card when making your donation. **The deadline for participating in this project is on December 1st.**



Blessings Box

You may be aware that the Blessings Box was damaged and was unsafe. Thank you, Norman and Harry for repairing the box. We are now stocking it again each day and appreciate any single-serving food donations. Please deposit donated items in the

container marked Blessings Box Donations in the narthex or on the table near the food pantry door in the lower level. You have been so generous in the past and we appreciate your participation.



Cattle on a Thousand Hills i.e. Davis Fellowship Hall Flooring Project



We are so close to \$19,000. Our stated goal is \$30,000. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far to this important project. In the weeks ahead we will announce a Change Sunday in which you will be asked to "dig deep into your pockets" and donate your loose change. We would like to raise several hundred dollars more through this initiative. You will hear more soon. Again, we want to thank you for your sacrifice and support up to this point. We ask for your prayers that God will continue to give us ideas and donors.



Worthy of love

Let all that you do be done in love – 1 Cor 16:14

During the month of December, First Baptist will be receiving the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) each Sunday and Christmas Eve. The RMMO is designed to honor and celebrate retired ordained ministers, commissioned missionaries, or their surviving spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to service in American Baptist Churches USA. The offering serves as a way for congregations to say “thank you” for their commitment and contributions to the church and community.

The funds collected provide a “Thank You” check, as well as emergency financial assistance for those in need. In 2024, an average of \$174 was distributed to over 3,000 recipients. The funds can help cover unexpected medical expenses, purchase necessary items like hearing aids or eyeglasses, and provide financial relief.

By contributing to the RMMO, we each can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have dedicated their lives to serving others in faith. Use the RMMO envelope in the pew rack. Checks should be payable to FBC and marked “RMMO” in the memo line.

Thank You for your gifts to the RMMO!

Board of Missions



Men's Shelter Meal Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Shelters in November! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, December 10, 2025. In December, the men are expected to be back in the Bagley Hall facility at 1155 Walker Road, Dover. Beginning in December, the FBC Board of Missions has included the Women's/Children's shelter at 1156

Walker Road for needed meal contributions.

The meal contribution sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. December's menu includes: Swedish Meatballs, Peas and Carrots, and Assorted Pudding Cups. Please deliver your contributed food item directly to the shelter between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!



Poinsettias



Persons wishing to place poinsettias in the church as part of our Christmas display will need to complete this form and place it in the designated box at the Welcome Center. The cost is **\$16.00 for each plant ordered**. Checks may be made out to First Baptist Church, noting on the check "*for poinsettia*", and placed in the offering plate. Please make payment no later than December 25th.

Orders must be received by Sunday, December 14th. No orders will be taken after this date.

You may contact Margaret Steinhoff with any questions at 228-9301.

No. of Plants: _____



My plant is in honor of:

My plant is in memory of:

_____ **Plant(s) may be taken to a shut-in after the Christmas Eve service.**

_____ **I prefer to pick up plant(s) after the Christmas Eve Service.**

Plant(s) given by:

Name:

Phone:



SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Anyone wishing to give flowers for the church worship services for the year **2026** may complete this form and mail it to the church office or place in the designated box in the Narthex. **You must fill out a separate sheet for each date you request.** *The cost for the two vases is \$50.00.*

If you have any questions, contact Margaret Steinhoff at 302-228-9301.

Your gift of flowers is a contribution to the church and is greatly needed and appreciated. FYI: Some flowers are more expensive (i.e. roses).

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone #_____

Date Preferred_____

Type/Color of Flowers_____

What you would like your dedication to say_____

***You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. Please complete a separate sheet for each date requested.
Thank you!

*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



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 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 December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	4 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir	5	6 11:30 Joyce Reed Circle (Piazza Mia)
7 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection  4:00 Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall)	8	9 10:00 ABWM Board Mtg. (Conference Rm) 11:30 Bonar Circle (Joyce Buckley's Home)	10 11:30 XYZ (Mel & Mike's) 12:00 Bible Study 4:00 DIMH Dinner 5:30 Christian Ed 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	11 1:00 Clemmer Circle (Pat's Select, Smyrna) 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir	12	13 10:00 Missions (Conference Rm) 1:30 Christmas Caroling (Parking Lot). 3:00 Milford Community Band Christmas Concert
14 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection 2:00 Rennie Quible Memorial Luncheon 	15 January Newsletter Articles Due  1:00 Prayer Shawl (Mike & Mel's)	16	17 12:00 Bible Study 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	18 2:30 Pastoral Relations (Library) 4:30 Deacons (Library) 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir	19	20 9:00 Coordinating Committee (Library)
21 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection 	22	23	24 Church Office Closed 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas  Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection	29	30	31 Church Office Closes at Noon			

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.