



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

January 2026 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

Happy New Year First Baptist!

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



As we step into a new year, it is fitting to pause and reflect on all that God has brought us through in 2025. Through joys and challenges, growth and change, God has proven Himself faithful time and time again. As we give thanks for the journey behind us, we now look ahead with excitement and expectation for what God has in store for us in 2026. The same God who carried us this far is already present in the year ahead.

For the month of January, our preaching focus will center on the birth of the church in Acts 2. In Acts 2, we see a Spirit-filled community devoted to worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship, and we are reminded that the church was never meant to be built on individual effort alone, but on shared faith and shared life together. As we prepare to walk in what God has for us in this new year and in the years to come, Acts 2 gives us both a foundation and a vision.



January is also a season when many set goals and resolutions, whether as individuals, families, or even as a church. These intentions are meaningful, but Scripture reminds us that lasting change cannot happen without God at the center. We were never meant to pursue God's purposes alone. We need one another. Community and accountability are not signs of weakness, but God's design for growth and faithfulness.

As we begin this new year together, may we commit ourselves afresh to God's leading, to one another, and to the work He has called us to do. With God at the center and our brothers and sisters at our side, we can step confidently into all that He has prepared.

With hope and gratitude,
Pastor Brian C. Cunningham





“Welcome to the New Year”

Welcome to the New Year of 2026 A.D.

Ready to make those New Year's resolutions?
A New Year's resolution is a promise that you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year. Wikipedia.

For those who love the Top Ten: **Top 10 New Year's Resolutions**

Spend More Time with Family & Friends
 Exercise
 Lose Weight
 Quit Smoking
 Enjoy Life More
 Quit Drinking
 Get out of Debt
 Learn Something New
 Help Others
 Get Organized

And for those who like to see the outcomes: **Top 10 Commonly Broken New Year's Resolutions**

Lose Weight and Get Fit
 Quit Smoking
 Learn Something New
 Eat Healthier and Diet
 Get Out of Debt and Save Money
 Spend More Time with Family
 Travel to New Places
 Be Less Stressed
 Volunteer
 Drink Less

How about doing something that is good for your soul? The first of the year is a great time to start reading your Bible again, on a daily basis. There are many reading plans out there. When I googled it, the response was over 17 million entries. So, there should be one you like, or I can give you one that has Old Testament in the morning and New Testament in the evening (or you can do both in the morning if you prefer).

Get into God's Word in a serious way in 2026. You can see the signs coming all around us.

Jesus taught in Matthew 24 that
“The Day and Hour Unknown”

³⁶ *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

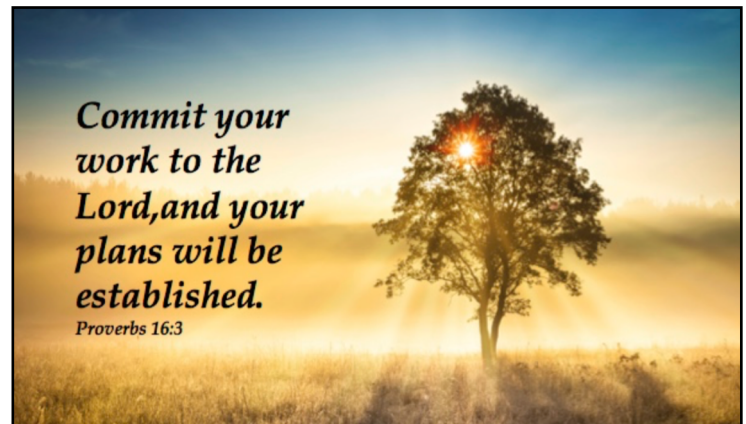
⁴² *“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*

⁴³ *But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.*

⁴⁴ *So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

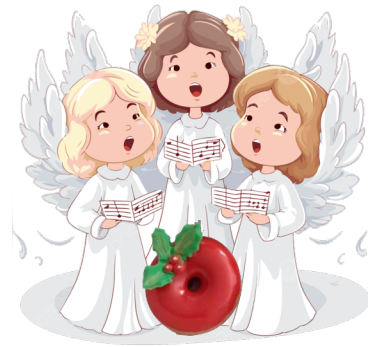
So, be prepared in 2026, in case the Lord does not tarry and comes back, and therefore you are prepared the meet Him.

Mike Metzger





Angels Love Donuts



The title of our ABWM Retreat this year is “Angels Love Donuts.” The movie discusses how to prepare to meet God in a funny but serious way. You will laugh and cry as a gentleman prepares for his demise the next day. Of course, his Angel of Death loves to eat donuts as it leads him on his journey. We plan to have a continental breakfast of coffee or tea with juice, fresh fruit, bagels, and lots of donuts! We’ll follow that with an opening devotional. Then we’ll begin the movie. Afterwards, we’ll have a discussion of what we learned in the movie. Last year, everyone enjoyed going to the Smyrna Diner for lunch, therefore, we’re going to repeat that this year. Hopefully, we can carpool again. Please plan to attend this event on January 31st, from 9:00 to noon, followed by lunch with the bunch at the Smyrna Diner. Please invite a friend to this presentation. They will thank you for doing so!

Your sister in Christ,
Sue Moore



Mary Bonar Circle
Faye Yarbrough is a missionary
to South Africa
Leader: Beryl Gerhard
January 6, 10:00
Fellowship Hall

Ann Clemmer Circle

Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo - Goma
Leader: Lois Glading
January 8, 1:00
Cox Parlor



Joyce Reed Circle
Joyce is Global Coordinator of
Spiritual Care
Leader: Margaret Steinhoff
January 3, 10:00
Fellowship Hall





Women's Winter Retreat

Saturday, January 31st

9:00 am - Noon (lunch to follow)

Continental Breakfast

Devotion

Movie

*“Angels
Love
Donuts”*



Discussion followed by lunch at
The Smyrna Diner



Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Emmanuel Harris | 1/1 |
| Bill Myers | 1/5 |
| Milda Limson | 1/6 |
| CeCe Cunningham | 1/12 |
| Dick Smith | 1/19 |
| Christine Septer | 1/22 |
| Agnes Robinson | 1/29 |



| | | |
|----------------------|------|----------|
| Irv and Nancy Culver | 1/12 | 57 years |
|----------------------|------|----------|

Dover Interfaith Shelter Meals



Shelter Meal-January 14th. Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Shelters in December! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, January 14, 2025. January's menu includes: Spaghetti, Steamed Broccoli, Texas Toast, and Cupcakes. The meal contribution sign-up is located at the Welcome Center. Please notice whether you are contributing for the Men's or Women's/Children's Shelter. Deliver your contributed food item directly to the shelter between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2025. Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!

Comfort Shawl Ministry



We will be getting together on January 19th at 1:00 for our next meeting in the conference room off the pastor's office. Please bring any finished and/or shawls you are currently working on. If you are new to FBC, please come and see what we are all about. You don't need to be able to crochet or knit to make our shawls. They may be made by machine as well. We need more people to help with this great project.



Join our Church Services Online

[YouTube.com at](https://www.youtube.com)

[First Baptist Church of Dover DE](#)



**Wednesday, 7:15pm
Telephone Prayer Meeting**

**Call - 978-990-5083
access code - 676527**



If you are available during the day, XYZ will be meeting on Wednesday, January 14th at 11:30am at the Pizza Delight ~ Greentree Shopping Center. 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!

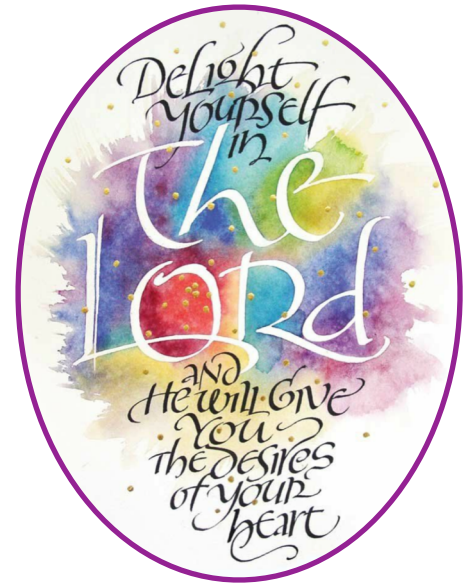
STEWARDSHIP

The Treasurer and his committee have all the information now to plan for our 2026 budget which will be presented in our Annual Report at our January business meeting.



Sanctuary Flowers

It is that time again when orders need to be placed for Sanctuary Flower for the coming year, 2026. The cost will be \$50.00 for two vases again. Certain flowers, such as roses, will cost more. The order forms are available at the Welcome Center. Dates are on a first come, first served basis, so reserve your date(s) as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to meet your requested date. Please PRINT the information on the form and fill it out completely. You will need to use a separate form for each date requested. If you have any questions, please see Margaret Steinhoff.



Food Pantry

**We donated 25
Christmas Food
Baskets to the Dover
Division of Family
Services.**

Matthew 25:35 & 40 - "For I was hungry & you gave me food; I was thirsty & you gave me drink. And the King said, "Assuredly, I say to you, Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it unto me."

Thank you to all who donated to this Christmas blessing for 25 families.

Blessings,
Romeo & Milda Limson, Food Pantry Coordinators

Giving Box



(Mid January – Mid February)

The Board of Missions will be collecting in mid-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.



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!

Christmas Card Project



Your gifts to the Christmas Card Project provided a Christmas gift of \$275.00 for each of our five Special Interest Missionaries. The recipients were

Susan Harding, Cordova Community Center, Cordova, Alaska

Rev. Rick Bunker, Philadelphia Park, Bensalem, PA

Rev. Ketly and Rev. Vital Pierre, Dominican Republic

Rev. David and Rev. Joyce Reed, Coordinators of Spiritual Care

(David provided the art work for the FBC Christmas Card.)

Rev. Ray Schellinger, Consultant for Immigrants and Refugees

Thanks to each of you and to Margaret Steinhoff, the coordinator of this Project.

During the month of December, First Baptist received 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. 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. As of December 14, we have received \$958.00.

Thank You for your gifts to the RMMO!
Board of Missions



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



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.

ATTENTION

Anyone interested in undecorating the Church from Christmas and taking down the Chrismon Trees, meet in the Sanctuary on Monday, January 5th at 10:00AM. Remember, many hands make light work

Thank you



Here's what's happening in January

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 Church Office Closed | 2 | 3 10:00 Joyce Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall) |
| 4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection | 5 10:00 Undecorate Chrismon Trees | 6 10:00 Bonar Circle (Fellowship Hall) | 7 12:00 Bible Study 6:15 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call | 8 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Cox Parlor) 5:00 Worship Committee (Zoom Meeting) 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir | 9 | 10 10:00 Missions (Conference Rm) |
| 11 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection | 12 | 14 | 14 11:30 XYZ - Pizza Delight (Greentree) 4:00 DIMH Dinner 5:30 Christian Ed 6:15 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call | 15 February Newsletter Articles Due 4:30 Deacon's (Library) 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection | 19 1:00 Prayer Shawl (Conference Rm) | 20 | 21 12:00 Bible Study 6:15 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call | 22 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir | 23 | 24 |
| 25. 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:00 Worship Kids Konnection 12:30 Annual Business Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 12:00 Bible Study 6:15 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call | 29 6:00 Praise Team 7:15 Sanctuary Choir | 30 | 31 09:00 Women's Retreat (Fellowship Hall) |



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.