



## **FIRST CHRONICLES**

**September, 2022**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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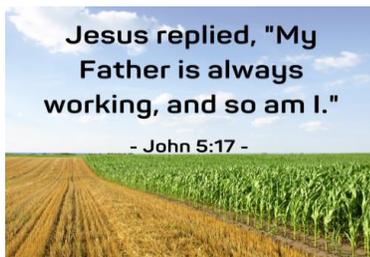
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*“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.” – Habakkuk 1:5*

It has been a year since my family and I have come to First Baptist Church! Where has the time gone? It feels like it has flown by so quickly! A year ago, we packed up, moved, got our house ready for sale, and completely unpacked everything within a three month time span. It was truly a whirlwind. But we have loved every minute of being here and we feel at home. And as I’ve looked back on this past year, I am once again reminded that God is faithful and that he is moving in our midst.

During the leadership retreat that we held at the beginning of August, I asked the Deacons, staff, and Advisory Board what changes they have noticed. I want to share this list with you because it is something that we can all celebrate.



One person commented that the boards seem to be more active and another person noticed that there was a different energy at First Baptist. There are new kids joining us on Sunday mornings, new believers coming to faith, new baptisms (12 so far this year!), new members (14 so far this year!), and attendance numbers are up across the board. AWANA started with around 30 kids last year before growing to around 70. This year, 90 are

planning on coming! During VBS, we had around 50 kids join us—the highest number we’ve seen in years! God is good and has been working in our midst. He has been blessing our efforts, our fellowship, and our pursuit of Him.

There have been some great ideas coming from the church as well. Because of Dennis, we now have a welcome folder to give to visitors to the church and new residents in the area that tells them about who we are. Jason has led the way in livestreaming our services for those sick at home, travelling, or in the nursing homes. Jim helped us think through what we symbolize when we bring the offering plates up front and so we now put them in front of the pulpit—presenting our gifts to God as an act of worship. And someone on the Advisory Board (I apologize, I’ve forgotten who) came up with the idea to send out a detailed prayer list and Crystal came up with the “how”—putting it on the back of the weekly prayer list in the bulletin. I love it when people bring ideas to the table and I love working together to accomplish things.

As we continue to fellowship and labor together, the emphasis remains on God. He is doing a new thing at First Baptist. He is leading us all to step into ministry, to participate in his working in our area, and to invest in each other and in our communities. I’m astounded at what he has done this past year. Maybe you are too. But I can’t wait to look back 5 years from now (and 10 years from now!) and marvel at all he has done through us.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
<b>Sunday, September 4</b> Daryl & Mary Kramer	<b>Sunday, September 4</b> Rachel Kramer
<b>Sunday, September 11</b> Janice Schneidermann	<b>Sunday, September 11</b> Gerri Spangler
<b>Sunday, September 18</b> Dennis & Gracia Schrick	<b>Sunday, September 18</b> Terresa Wagenaar
<b>Sunday, September 25</b> Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, September 25</b> Donna DeBoer



September	2	Austin & Shelby Hayenga Ed Kruse
	3	Jeffrey Wagenaar Merlin Winter
	4	Harold Schneiderman Dennis Schrick
	5	Jesse & Katie Sterneke
	7	Ronda Arends
	8	Florence Eben
	9	Greg & Sharon DeBoer Sarah Jurrens Tiffany Middleton
	10	Gerald & Alyssa denHoed
	12	Rachel Thompson
	13	Emily Hanenburg
	14	Carolyn Wagenaar
	15	Linda Christians
	19	Emily & Ben Hanenburg Brenna & Brevin Jasper
	21	Charlie Johnson
	23	Dawson DeBoer Lynelle Winter
	24	Bob & Rhonda Kruse
	25	Jacey Eben Tessa Thompson
	27	Dean Shelly
	28	Ashley DeBoer Jessica DeBoer Charles Hanenburg Ryan Schneidermann Kevin Wagenaar
	29	Brandon Kramer

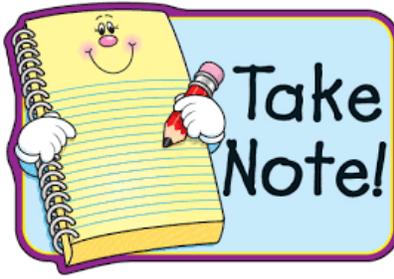


Ted and Dawn Siemens are missionaries working with TWR (Trans World Radio) in Cyprus.

The last five months have been very busy gathering and distributing media content related to the Ukraine and Russia conflict. Ukraine was one area that broadcasts were received but due to the people fleeing it was necessary to add live broadcasts for the people on the move. Ted and Dawn coordinated with relief agencies and Bible societies to help with the terrible trauma the people faced.

Justin and family were to relocate to Ukraine but due to the conflict were redirected to Berlin. There they are working with an Envision team in place. During the first month over 10,000 refugees passed through Berlin every day. Please continue praying for the staff that are in Ukraine and Russia spreading the Gospel. Continue praying for Ted and Dawn as they continue recreating media shared through radio. Also, pray for Dawn as she helps teach English to the Ukrainian refugees in Cyprus.

- Mission Board



- ❖ Jesse and Katie would like to host fellowship lunches ("Lunch Bunch") at the parsonage over the next year. Each Sunday of the month, directly after church, they'll provide the main dish and if you come, please bring a side dish. If you are unable to bring a side dish or just forgot, don't worry! We still want you there. To make sure we have enough room and food, and because we want to include everyone in the church, there will be a new sign-up each month. If you already signed up for a previous month, please consider leaving room for others to sign up. We'll be doing this almost every month this year and so there will be plenty of room to participate if you aren't able to on a particular month. We're looking forward to a time of food and fellowship!
- ❖ The food pantry in George is requesting donations of cereal for the September food giveaway. Please have your donations to Crystal's office by September 19.

*Thank You  
So Much*

Thank you for the graduation breakfast and two Bibles. I already gave one to a friend who needed one. Thanks again and God bless! -Jace Schrick

We as Gideons of the Northwest camp want to say thank you to the one who gave hog check in the amount of \$985.80 made out to the Gideons. We appreciate it very much and it will be used to purchase Bibles to distribute to places and individuals. - Gideons



- ❖ The congregation is invited to participate in Pastor Jesse's Ordination Council on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9am to 12 pm. During this time, area pastors will evaluate Jesse's theology to determine his eligibility for ordination in the North American Baptist Denomination. Ultimately, it is our congregation that will ordain Jesse. So, if you would like to be a part of the process (and maybe even ask your own questions), join us during this meeting.
- ❖ Sunday school promotion will be September 11 at 9 am. There will be donuts for breakfast before we head into our Sunday school classes. We hope to see all of you there!
- ❖ The ordination service for Jesse will be Sunday, Sept. 18 @ 3pm - that is, if everything goes well during the Ordination Council 😊. After the service, there will be a soup and pie supper.