

FIRST CHRONICLES

December, 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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“These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them... “And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it.” – Matthew 10:5a, 11-12

Years ago, I went on a short-term mission trip to Juarez Mexico. Leading up to that trip, the team who was going met weekly to learn and practice how to share the Gospel, to worship together, study the Bible together, and fellowship together. But our team consisted of more than just us—we partnered with a church in Juarez who hosted us while we were there. Their presence, friendship, and help were indispensable. They bridged the cultural and language gap, fed us, and housed us. Without this relationship, our mission trip would have greatly struggled.

When Jesus sent out his disciples, after telling them what they were called to do and then instructing them to leave their security behind and rely on God, he taught them to practice discernment. Specifically, they needed to be discerning in their relationships with others. They needed to find people in the area who not only would accept the message they proclaimed but were willing to partner with them to spread it to others. This was especially important in Jesus’ day because the Jewish authorities were against Christ and his ministry—and the Roman government violently suppressed anything they perceived as rebellion. To accept the Gospel was to live at tension with the governmental, religious, and cultural authorities. To support it was to risk persecution.

But the focus of the mission itself was the people. It has always been the people—to share the good news with them and watch God transform their lives. The disciples couldn’t go out on mission—we can’t go out on mission—without risk. While they had to accept the risk, they also had to be discerning in it as well. They were called to build relationships with others. In doing so, they began to disciple others who would carry on the work once they left. Finding people who were worthy in the town (verse 13) was to replicate the exact same process Jesus started with his own disciples. He called a few and disciplined them. Now he instructed them to find a few and disciple them as well.

But this discernment also meant that they needed to be willing to let people go—specifically those people who wouldn’t receive or listen to their message (verse 14). This needs to happen when away on mission because there is only so much time to share the Gospel. Their responsibility was to plant seeds. God would raise others up to water them. This is different in our area. Here, we can plant seeds and/or water them. Because we’re planted here, we have different work to do.

As we enter our Advent season, be in prayer for the lost. Pray that they would have open hearts to the Gospel. Pray that we could build relationships with them. Pray for discernment on when to plant, when to water, and when to trust God that He may want to work in their lives through someone else. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Sunday, December 7 Jim & Sharon Douglass	Sunday, December 7 Judy Eben	Sunday, December 7 Abby Kramer
Sunday, December 14 Bryan & Rachel Kramer	Sunday, December 14 Gerri Spangler	Sunday, December 14 Sarah Gruis
Sunday, December 21 Darren & Julie Kramer	Sunday, December 21 Terresa Wagenaar	Sunday, December 21 Christmas Program
Sunday, December 28 Daryl & Mary Kramer	Sunday, December 28 Donna DeBoer	Sunday, December 28 Katie DeBoer



December	1	Michael Kramer
	5	Bethany DeBoer
	6	Sweer Arends Ross Kooiker
	7	Steve & Anna Jean Schneiderman
	11	Jesse DeGroot Trent Thompson
	14	Jozephine Kaufman
	16	Harold & Helen Eben
	17	Taylor Kramer
	18	Dax DeGroot
	22	Dave & Rita Busse Katie DeBoer
	26	Kelly & Stacie DeBoer Raelyn Thompson
	28	Jesse Schrick
	30	Dustin DeBoer Glenda DeBoer
	31	Bob Johnson Jesse Cottington



Greetings from the Bardins in Mbingo:

The Bardins were blessed to have the opportunity to attend the NAB retreat this year in Belgium for the missionaries serving in Cameroon. It was a refreshing and encouraging time to come together and share what God had been doing and the things He is leading them in for the future.

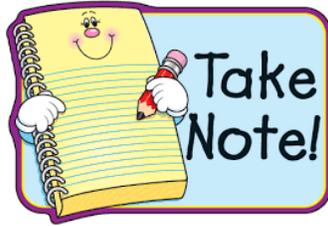
One of the 2025 goals for the older women's group at church was to visit the younger women's group and encourage them. Gifts were provided them by the Treasured and Protected women's group in the USA.

The hardest part of working in the health profession is accepting the fact that sometimes the patient doesn't respond to treatment by the medical team. That is when trust in God occurs. The medical team treats, God heals. It's not always the healing prayed for, but God's ways are higher. The most important thing the team can do is share the hope there is in knowing Jesus as Savior, the giver of eternal life.

Continue to pray for the healing and safety of their patients. Most importantly pray for their secure position in Jesus.

"Have a Christ-centered Christmas", Rick and Debbie Bardin

Mission Board



- We will be going Caroling on December 14 at 4pm with supper to follow. Meet at the church and we will disperse from there.
- Pastor Jesse & family would like to invite the church to the parsonage to celebrate Christmas together on Sunday, December 21, from 4:00-7:00pm. There'll be music, soup, and Christmas cookies! Feel free to stop by at any time and leave when you'd like. We hope to see you there!
- Christmas Program practice will begin November 30 during the Sunday school hour. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 21, at 10:00 am.
- Join us for a Night of Holiday Music on Sunday evening, December 7, at 6:30. Lunch to follow. Group 3 is asked to work in the kitchen and bring 1 ½ doz. bars or cookies.
- Annual Reports are due to Crystal deBoer via email by Sunday, January 4.
- This Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a candlelight service. Join us as we sing carols, light the Christ candle, and remind ourselves that God demonstrated His love for us by coming into the world so long ago. Service is at 6p. We hope to see you here!
- Join us on New Year's Eve for a service to ring in the New Year. We will meet at 7p for a time of prayer and worship as we seek God's direction from the coming year. Then we will have a time of food, fellowship, and fun (from 8-10p) and we will watch a movie to bring us to midnight! Don't worry, if you get too tired, you can head out whenever you'd like 😊 Bring goodies and a game and we look forward to spending time together!



Dear folks at First Baptist--thanks so much for all the Thanksgiving meal bags you assembled and donated to the GLR Bread of Life. What a blessing you were to all the families who came! You were truly the 'Hands and Feet of Jesus'. Thank you, GLR Bread of Life and Food Pantry

I want to thank the Deacons for the gift card I received for the Thanksgiving holiday. - Janice Schneidermann

Thank you for the gift card that I received! - Shirley Winkowitsch

We would like to thank the one who gave a hog check to the Gideons. It is very much appreciated. It will be used to purchase Bibles. Thank you!
- NW Gideon Camp

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you, also, for all the prayers on our behalf the last several months. We are truly blessed.
- In Christ, Steve, Anna Jean, and Ada

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	4 6:30 PM Ellsworth Small Group	5	6
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Mission Board Mtg 6:30 PM Holiday Concert	8	9 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	10 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	11 6:30 PM Ellsworth Small Group	12	13
14 9:00 AM Program Practice Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Caroling	15	16	17 6:30 PM Awana 6:30 PM Youth Party 7:00 PM Visitation	18 6:30 PM Ellsworth Small Group	19	20
21 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Program Practice Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Program 4:00-7:00 PM Parsonage Open House	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Trustee Board Mtg	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Service	SERVING MEALS ON WHEELS MON-FRI ALL MONTH		