

First Forum

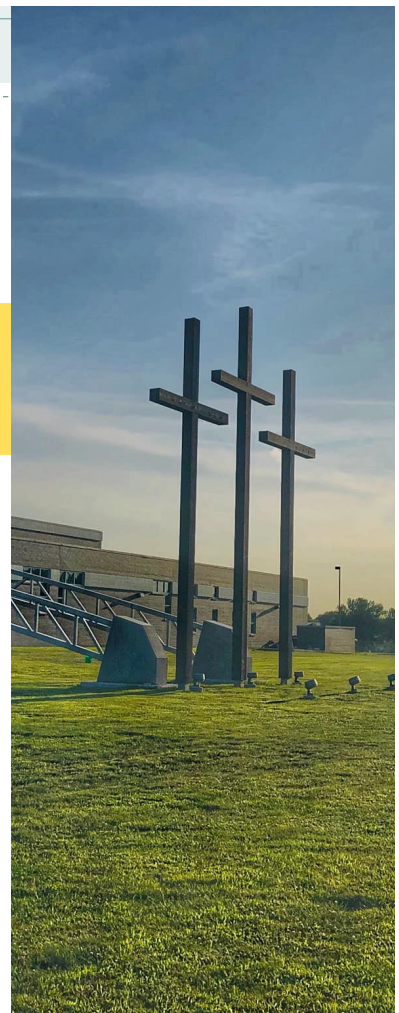


Teaching

“Seek Ye First”

It's hard to believe that in less than one week Christmas will be over, and a new year will be upon us. It is common at this time of year to reflect on and evaluate our plans and priorities. Many of us will choose to make New Year's Resolutions in the coming weeks. There is something about starting something new and fresh that causes us to consider what changes need to be made in our lives. This is a good thing! But sometimes when pursuing a “good thing” we can overlook the “greater thing.” Don't get me wrong. Some of us need to make our health a priority this year. Others of us really need to reconsider how we are spending our time and money. We should constantly be monitoring and working on these areas of our life. But can I suggest we don't get sucked into the temptation of making these sorts of things our primary focus for 2025? What if instead we took Jesus' advice and made the Father's Kingdom and His righteousness our primary focus for this next year. In Matthew 6 Jesus talks about the daily issues of life and our priorities. He acknowledges the very real temptation we feel to become distracted by earthly things. He acknowledges our heart's tendency to worry. And what is His answer to all of it? Essentially, he instructs us to fix our focus on our Heavenly Father. To pursue Him first and above all things. Then, all the other things will fall into place. (Matt. 6:33). What a clear, direct, and helpful truth to help us think about how we prioritize and order our lives. May this truth guide our thinking as we move into a new year. And may God's richest blessings accompany you and your family as you seek to live for Him in 2025!

~ *Pastor Jason*



RENTALS & RESERVATIONS

If you would like to reserve or rent a ROOM in the church (for Bible studies, events, weddings, etc.) or rent the gym, please contact the church office at (308)234-2311 or LReed@kearneyfb.org. New rental forms will be required for reservations in 2025. These forms are available through the church office. Please NOTE the facility use reservations are visible on the calendar via the church website. *Please double check your reservations on that calendar.*

NOTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we come to the close of 2024 First Baptist has continued to be blessed with many faithful givers and are on track to meet our financial needs. The attached graphic shows that to meet our giving goal of \$1,153,780 for 2024, we need approximately \$65,000 of additional giving. Prayerfully consider how you can have a part in meeting First Baptist financial goal for 2024.

At the December 8 Congregational meeting, the congregation approved it's 2025 budget. The attached graphic shows the breakout of expenses for 2025. Overall, the budget will increase by 5.8% over the prior year. There are three significant areas the make up the church budget:

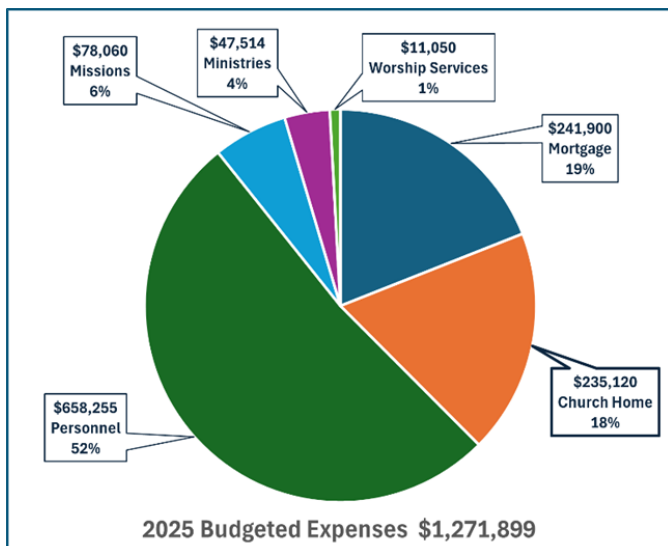
Personnel expenses which make up 52% of the budget. This approved budget includes the addition of a full-time Facility Maintenance Manager.

The church mortgage makes up 19% of the budget and was recently refinanced with Bruning Bank. The 2025 payments will be \$242,000 resulting in annual savings of \$22,000. Additionally, \$430,000 of savings was used to pay our mortgage down to \$2,300,000.

Care of our Church Home makes up 18% of our budget and these funds are used to pay utilities, makes repairs and keep the church property in good condition.

As we begin the new year, prayerfully consider how you can financially support First Baptists ministry. In I Corinthians 16:1-2, Paul reminds us with the following – “Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.” As we move into a new year, remember those words of Paul, he wants each of us as believers to consistently and on a regular basis to support the work of the church.

Finally on December 8, there will be a congregational meeting to present and approve the 2025 budget. Please plan to attend and participate in this meeting.



Proposed Capital Campaign



Rendering of new FBC chapel space

A \$2 million capital campaign has been proposed by the church Finance Committee. There are two goals for the campaign, and every dollar will be split 50/50 between the goals. There will be a short presentation, followed by a congregational vote on January 12, 2025, after the morning church service, to determine if we proceed with the fundraising campaign.

GOAL 1: DECREASE MORTGAGE BY \$1 MILLION TO INCREASE MONTHLY CASH FLOW AVAILABLE FOR MINISTRIES
Our current property mortgage is \$2.3 million. This is \$240,000/year in payments. By paying down our mortgage principal by \$1 million, we will save \$104,500/year in payments. Imagine the ministries we could do with this cash!

GOAL 2: BUILD OUT A CHAPEL ROOM & REMODEL MAIN RESTROOMS - \$1 MILLION
Create a Chapel Room to the north of Saints Hall and expand our main restrooms into the empty rough space left from our original remodel (see above rendering of Chapel). The Chapel will have a sliding glass panel wall opening into Saints Hall and serve as a flexible space for smaller weddings, funerals, and other events. Restrooms at the main entrance will be expanded to accommodate large events such as Sports Challenge VBS and conferences.



*Congregational Vote by Members**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
11:30AM

Light finger foods will be served.

The motion for vote: To begin a capital campaign in September 2025 to raise \$2 million to reduce debt and fund capital projects.

**Majority vote, by members present, age 15 and older*

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

- **Summer 2025:** Conversations with smaller groups to explain the needs.
- **Fall 2025:** Official campaign begins.
- **December 2025:** Commitments are pledged. 18-month collection period begins.
- **May 2027:** Final contributions received.

Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Suffering

PAUL DAVID TRIPP

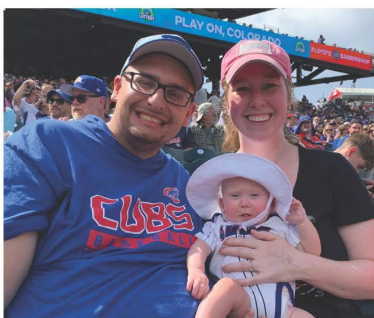
Pastor Jason's
Book Recommendation
Suffering: Gospel Hope When
Life Doesn't Make Sense
By Paul David Tripp



Missions



OAKS
INTERNATIONAL



Dear Friends & Family,

We are incredibly thankful for you and all of your care for us. Because of your partnership (in prayer, conversation, financially, etc) we have been able to dedicate our lives to advancing the gospel to college students. Thank you! Our heart and mission towards college students is unchanging.

We are excited to tell you that as of January 1 we have accepted a job with a new ministry, Oaks International, named for Isaiah 61:3 "... they may be called oaks of righteousness...". The vision of Oaks International is "to proclaim Christ and multiply disciplemakers for the glory of God and the joy of all nations."
(website: oaksintl.org)

We are so thankful for the time we've had with the Navigators, learning and growing. As we look forward, we are excited for the opportunities and vision Oaks International has for college students; to share the good news of Christ, become disciples of Christ, and be sent into all the world for Christ. We understand you might have more questions, so please feel free to reach out!

With this, we will be continuing our ministry at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, walking with students as they learn to follow Christ and helping them become spiritual leaders on campus who share the gospel, make disciples, and send to the nations. Much of our day-to-day ministry will look the same.

While our mission towards college students is the same, we do need to change which organization is receiving our financial support. **We would invite you to switch your giving to Oaks International (starting January 1)**, by using the gift commitment card included. We are so thankful for your partnership with our ministry.

In this time of transition we have a one-time need to purchase new campus organizational materials as well as build some operational reserves. As you update your giving, we'd be grateful for your prayerful consideration to make an increase in monthly giving and/or make a one-time gift of any amount. Would you consider a launching gift for this season?

We are thankful for your partnership in the gospel and can't wait to share how the Lord is impacting us and the students we invest in! As always, reach out to us with any questions.

Your partners in Christ,

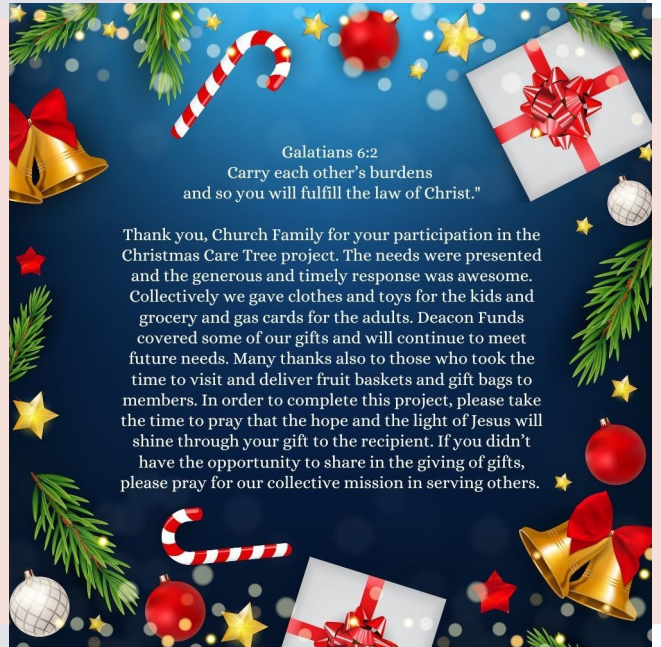
Questions:

How to start giving to our Oaks Account? You can fill out & mail in the enclosed giving card, or you can give at: oaksintl.givingfuel.com/ryan-and-catie-jonas

How to discontinue recurring giving through Navigators? By logging onto your Navigator Giving Account through navigators.org, or contacting Navigators Ministry Partner Care at 866-568-7827 or email at ministrypartnercare@navigators.org



250 shoeboxes collected at Kearney First Baptist!! With each box potentially reaching 7-10 people with the gospel for the first time, that's 2,500 people impacted. Without everyone's participation in packing, paying and praying, it would not have happened. THANK YOU!!!!



Galatians 6:2
Carry each other's burdens
and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Thank you, Church Family for your participation in the Christmas Care Tree project. The needs were presented and the generous and timely response was awesome. Collectively we gave clothes and toys for the kids and grocery and gas cards for the adults. Deacon Funds covered some of our gifts and will continue to meet future needs. Many thanks also to those who took the time to visit and deliver fruit baskets and gift bags to members. In order to complete this project, please take the time to pray that the hope and the light of Jesus will shine through your gift to the recipient. If you didn't have the opportunity to share in the giving of gifts, please pray for our collective mission in serving others.



Girls Craft Night

Second Friday

6-8 pm

Sign up today at kearneyfb.org/kids

JOIN US FOR GIRLS' CRAFT NIGHT!

Our next monthly Girls' Craft Nights, for girls Kindergarten through 6th grade, will be Friday, January 10th, from 6pm—8pm.

In addition to a fun craft, the girls will have pizza and cookies.

Please register at kearneyfb.org/kids no later than Wednesday, January 8th so the leaders can purchase supplies.

January 2025 Celebrations



| | Birthday | Anniversary |
|------|---|--|
| 1-1 | Jaxon Backus, Marissa Perez | |
| 1-2 | Quentin Martin, Galyn Lind, Abby Gillming, Elijah Adler | Andrew & Molly Couto |
| 1-3 | Chris Watts, Janice Miller | |
| 1-4 | Karen Decker | |
| 1-5 | Doris VanVleet | Nate & Tiffany Murdoch |
| 1-6 | Caleb Pape, Allie Ondrak | Mike & Billy Jo Gregg Jordan & Riley Moncrief |
| 1-7 | Rory Moncrief | |
| 1-8 | Charlene Jezbera, Joshua Pycha | |
| 1-9 | Alaynna Pedersen | |
| 1-10 | Zach Ondrak, Canon Harsch | |
| 1-11 | Tom Urbanek, Jeff Nordhues | |
| 1-12 | | |
| 1-13 | Jessica Gall, Jason Hutsell, Bill Shaffer | |
| 1-14 | Troy Olson, Troy Peterson | |
| 1-15 | Jack Estes, Bill Peters, Jason Purdy | |
| 1-16 | | |
| 1-17 | Sarah Danielson, Dean Chamberlin, Lauren Liljehorn, Benton Banning | |
| 1-18 | | Roger & Lynda Francis |
| 1-19 | Ali Flores | |
| 1-20 | Misty Lingle, Nancy Johnson Gangwish | |
| 1-21 | Julie Brooker | |
| 1-22 | | |
| 1-23 | Mary Fitzke, Gabe Edwards | |
| 1-24 | Ken Martin, Briggs Schneringer | |
| 1-25 | Robin Hanson, Jim Voth, Lue Allan | |
| 1-26 | Heather Estes, Julie Stall D'Andre Ndugwa, Patty Mason, Solomon Stevens, Linda Peterson | |
| 1-27 | | |
| 1-28 | Rose Hullinger | |
| 1-29 | Andrea Kotschwar | |
| 1-30 | Ryan Martin | |
| 1-31 | Matt Hutsell | |

Directory updates?

Please make sure your address and phone number are correct in our church directory. If they need updating please notify the church office ASAP as new directories will be printed soon!

Card List



Men's Breakfast

See you on January 18th
at 7:30am in the Multi-
purpose Room!

Contact William
Bolen with
questions or for
more info!

At Northridge

5410 17th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
Loree Elliott #15
Carl Gangwish #146
Arlys Kleckner #41
Lula Cepel #341
Alex Gangwish, #226
Jo Wright, #245

At Autumn Village

1712 E 39th St
Kearney, NE 68847
Marvin Ebinger #4
Rose Hullinger #14
Beryl Topps #6

At Wel-Life

5616 4th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
Jeanne Chamberlin #110

At Mother Hull

125 E 23rd St
Kearney NE 68847
Shirley Rosenthal #20
Richard Klecker #30

At Cambridge Court

4107 Central Ave
Kearney NE 68847
Linda Salter, #116

At Mount Carmel

412 W 18th St
Kearney, NE 68845
Gary Hansen #114

At St. John's

3410 Central Ave
Kearney, NE 68847
George Bundy N 7
Gary Wuehler S 8
Charlie Mefferd N12

At Brookstone Gardens

2615 W 11th St
Kearney, NE 68845
Marvin Gillming Apt. 414
Norman Hicken Apt 404

At Country House

Country House
Attn: Eulah Gangwish
5605 K Ave. (Room number
not needed)
Kearney, NE 68847

At Kearney Manor

2715 Ave I
Kearney, NE 68847
Carol Abramson, #12

Mrs. Faith Kamm
2309 W 42nd Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Jeanette Evan
1415 E 34th St
Kearney, NE 68847

Elaine Siminoe
c/o Cindy Lauby
42780 Rd 756
Lexington, NE 68850
(At Elwood Care Home for
visits)

Lloyd Mead & Doris Van Vleet
4429 P Ave
Kearney, NE 68847

Keith & Mary Lou McFarland
44086 Rd 768
Sumner, NE 68878

Jerry & Julie Stall
2665 E 95th St
Kearney, NE 68847

Pat Hird
2005 7th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Carol Baetz
2715 Ave I Apt 81
Kearney, NE 68847

Roger & Pat Anderson
515 W 1st St
Minden, NE 68959

Melanie Morrison
Heritage at Sagewood
Room 236
1920 Sagewood Ave
Grand Island, NE 68803

Next Steps Class

Our first new member class of 2025 begins at 8:30am on Sunday, January 26th in Saints Hall. This four week class will help you learn more about our church, our beliefs, our history and all we have to offer. If you're interested in becoming a member of our church, or just interested in learning more about us, please reach out to Pastor Sean or fill out a Connection Card.

**“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ.”**



January 2025

| January 2025 | | | | | | | February 2025 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| Dec 29 | 30 | 31 | Jan 1, 25 New Year's Day (Office Closed) | 2 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) | 3 12:00pm Godly Men in the Workplace (Valentino's) | 4 |
| 5 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Radio Broadcast | 6 9:30am PRAYER GROUP | 7 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team | 8 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible 8:00pm Men's Group | 9 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study | 10 6:00pm Girls Craft Night | 11 |
| 12 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm 5:00pm Radio Broadcast | 13 9:30am PRAYER GROUP | 14 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 2:00pm Rebekah Anna Circle 7:00pm Praise Team | 15 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible 8:00pm Men's Group | 16 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study | 17 | 18 7:30am Men's Breakfast |
| 19 8:30am APRM 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Radio Broadcast | 20 9:30am PRAYER GROUP | 21 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team | 22 9:30am Ruth Circle 1:00pm Dorcas/Tabitha 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids | 23 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study | 24 6:00pm Boys and Girls Night | 25 10:00am Diaper Depot |
| 26 8:30am Next Steps Class 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast | 27 9:30am PRAYER GROUP | 28 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team | 29 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible 8:00pm Men's Group | 30 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study | 31 | Feb 1 |

Did you know...


The calendar is also available to view on the church website? <https://kearneyfb.org/calendar/>

Kearney First Baptist
3610 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845


Phone: 308-234-2311

E-mail:
contact@kearneyfb.org

SCAN FOR GUEST INFO



KEARNEY
FIRST BAPTIST



KFBC Staff

Sean Dougherty, Senior Pastor
sdougherty@kearneyfb.org

Mark de Kluyver, Assoc. Pastor
mdekluver@kearneyfb.org

Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor
jpurdy@kearneyfb.org

Mark Liljehorn, Worship Director
mliljehorn@kearneyfb.org

Lori Reed, Office Manager
Lreed@kearneyfb.org

Doug Samuelson, Facility Manager
dsamuelson@kearneyfb.org

Jennifer Liljehorn, Business Manager
jliljehorn@kearneyfb.org

Scott Peace,
Children's Ministry
Director
speace@kearneyfb.org

Searching for ways to
give electronically?

Scan here!

