

First Forum



I just finished up a course for my degree which required me to submit a weekly response to a devotional. I had thought of rewriting it for this newsletter, but all my attempts seemed to miss how this passage impacted me so below is what I originally wrote. It probably gives more of an insight into my life than what you wanted but I hope it is helpful.

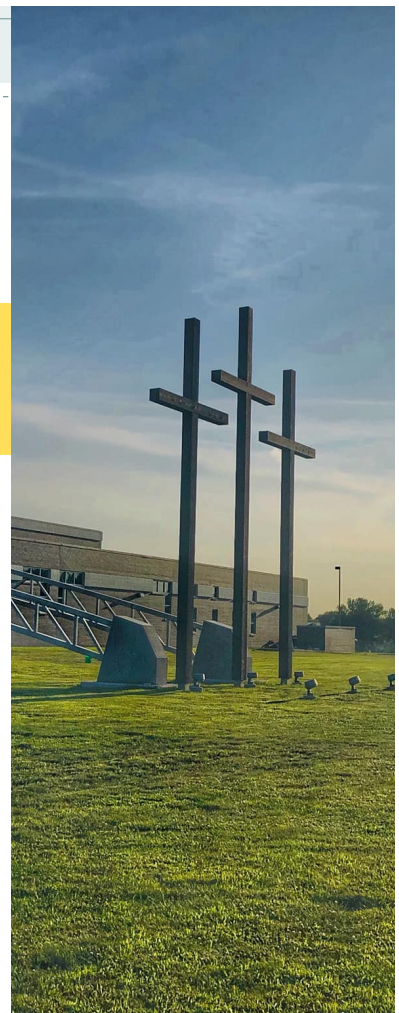
In this devotional, I got stuck on the first verse that is mentioned. I think I have gotten so used to the verse that, when referring to Jesus knocking at the door, it says, "I will come in and eat with that person." (Rev 3:20). At some point in my development, it stopped seeming odd that the God of the universe would want to spend time with me, not necessarily for the purpose of giving direction or tasks, but that He would want to spend time with me because He just wanted to hang out. To sit across the table over bread or soup. What an odd thing for the King of the Universe to want to do with any of us. What an odd thing to think of Him wanting this with me.

I know that "hanging out" seems undignified when referring to God, but I don't know what other word to use when someone knocks at the door in the hopes of just sharing a meal together, or coffee, not begging, but wanting connection.

What an undignified God; who eats with sinners, invites Himself to dinner with Zacchaeus, runs to the prodigal, and spends time with children. It seems He is more concerned with the relationship than the decorum.

For some reason, it has become normal for me to imagine that God's actions are about a task or activity. I think I have substituted the word task for the more accurate word "purpose". The idea of Him eating with me is not based on Him having an ulterior motive, as if the time and sharing were not enough, or perhaps as if I am not enough on my own, that there is something He wants from me. Even my questioning of why He would want to do this with me is misplaced. I think there must be something about me, or a task He requires, that would make Him want this. And since I cannot imagine what that would be, I cannot imagine Him doing this. But that is assuming it has to do with me. It is more likely that He does this because of His character and nature. Perhaps He offers to eat with me simply because He wants to eat with me—what a wonderfully weird thing to consider.

~ Pastor Mark



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 ALL reservations (including in house) in 2025. These forms are available at <https://kearneyfb.org/room-reservations/> or 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 move into the second quarter of 2025, we are grateful for those who faithfully give to First Baptist. In April, First Baptist received \$92,226 in giving. Combined with our first quarter giving of \$296,898, this brings our total to \$389,125 for the first four months of 2025. When looking at the attached thermometer, we are behind the goals for the first quarter. We historically have had lower giving during the Summer months, so we front-load the goals to help us make up the gap during that time. So, while we are keeping up with our expenses overall, we still want you to be aware of the needs to keep your giving consistent during this season.

First Baptist's total income from all sources for the first four months, excluding Capital Campaign contributions, was \$404,539. Operating expenses totaled \$475,508, resulting in a shortfall of \$70,969. This deficit is primarily due to \$44,000 in additional building projects, with the remainder attributed to the timing of expenses relative to income received. While this shortfall is concerning, the church currently has sufficient savings to cover the gap.

Despite the challenges, First Baptist's overall financial position remains strong. We encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can help ensure the church's financial health. As faithful followers of Christ, we are called to be generous, regardless of how much we have. Giving back to God's work through financial support enables the ministry of the church to continue—and it is through this generosity that we can experience great blessing.

We can be reminded of the verses in 2 Corinthians 8:1–4:

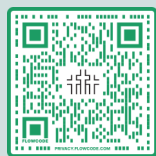
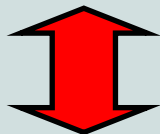
“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.” (NIV)

Paul reminds us that even in the face of hardship and persecution, the Macedonian believers gave generously. It was not the amount that mattered, but the spirit in which they gave.

Let this serve as a reminder to us all: we have a responsibility to give as generously as we are able, to support the work of the church and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

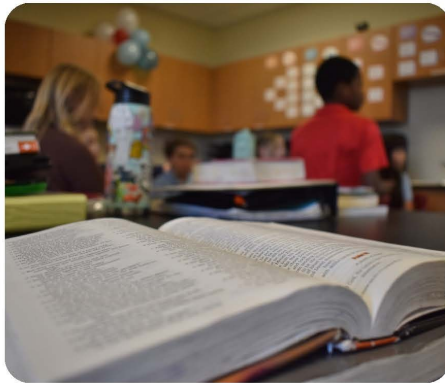
Searching for ways to
give electronically?

Scan here!





FAITH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



► PURPOSE STATEMENT

Faith Christian School will develop a high school focused on holistically educating students—mind, body, and spirit—helping them cultivate a biblical worldview and deepen their walk as disciples of Christ.

► GOALS

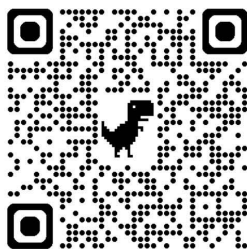
- Offer a secondary school option consistent with our Biblical Integration Model for FCS students.
- Establish a cohesive program spanning from Pre-K to 12th grade for the community of Kearney.
- Develop a program focused on assisting parents as they disciple their middle and high school students in Kearney.



► GET INVOLVED!

PRAY | SHARE | GIVE

► SCAN FOR MORE INFO



CONTACT US!

Aaron Peterson
Head of School
apeterson@fcskearney.org
308-236-8745

Laura Bristow
Director of Stewardship
lbristow@fcskearney.org
308-270-0291

Preparing Materials

- Finalizing agreements
- Collecting Curriculum resources

**August 2025 -
May 2026**

Moving In

- Train new staff
- Prepare classrooms for new students

August 2026

**May 2025 -
August 2025**

Building the Team

- Hire New Teachers
- Enroll New Students

**May 2026 -
July 2026**

High School Opens!

- Start discipling students at First Baptist

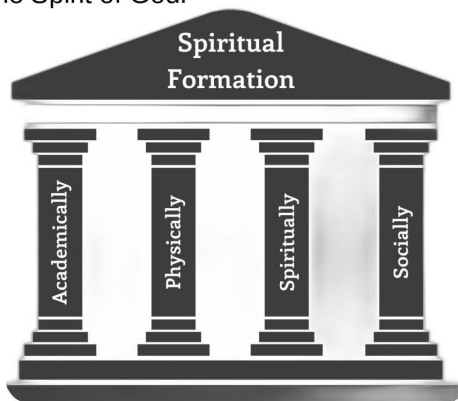
► WHERE WE WILL BE

Our students and staff will be using the northwest corner of the building during school hours, Monday through Friday. We're grateful to First Baptist for providing such a high-quality facility that supports a safe and effective learning environment. We're excited to partner with you and your other tenants as we work together to serve the Kearney community. To learn more about how we'll use this space to disciple students, please scan the QR code on the back of this newsletter.



► CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

is the process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ by obedient, joyful participation with the Spirit of God.



BIBLICAL INTEGRATION MODEL

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A Biblical Integration Model is an approach to education that meaningfully integrates Biblical principles into every subject and activity, helping students develop a worldview grounded in Scripture.

- Building a Biblical worldview and academic excellence
- Connecting God's truth across all subjects
- Grounding character development in Scripture
- Preparing students with purpose and identity in Christ



Hebrews 12:1-2

FAITHFULLY FORWARD

2025 Capital Campaign

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

- **September 14, 2025**
Campaign kickoff
- **November 23, 2025**
Pledge cards available
- **December 14, 2025**
Pledge cards submitted and 18-month collection period begins
- **May 2027**
Receive final contributions

*Architect rendering of
new chapel space*

\$2 MILLION CAMPAIGN WITH 2 EQUAL GOALS



Goal: \$1 Million Mortgage Reduction

Increase monthly cash flow available to ministries.

Our current property mortgage is \$2.3 million, which is \$240,000/year in payments. By paying down our mortgage principal by \$1 million, we will save \$125,000/year in payments. This frees resources that can be used for other areas.



Goal: Chapel & Restroom Buildout

\$1 million capital project.

Create a Chapel Room to the north of Saints Hall, and expand main restrooms into the empty space left from original remodel. 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 conferences and large events.



» OUR MISSION

A Legacy of Discipleship

Making disciples of Christ has always been at the heart of Kearney First Baptist Church. Since our humble beginnings in 1874, we have grown into our current home, the remodeled Kearney High School - each space a milestone along the path, spaces used to welcome people, nurture faith, and expand ministry.

Now, we press forward once again, running toward the future God has set before us. This campaign is more than constructing buildings; it is about strengthening the mission of Christ, equipping future generations, and ensuring that our church is a place where disciples are made over the next 150 years. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, the champion and perfecter of our faith, we take this next step together, trusting that He will guide us to the finish line.

» OUR VISION

Building for the Future

We envision a church that deepens faith, expands its reach, and equips the next generation to share the gospel. To do this, we must invest in people and resources that strengthen our ministry. Retiring debt will reallocate capital for these things.

- **Expanding Leadership** - Adding staff and training volunteers to disciple a growing church.
- **Strengthening Teen Ministry** - Providing more resources to help youth grow in faith and build lasting relationships in Christ.
- **Growing College Ministry** - Reaching Kearney's college students with the love of Christ and a spiritual home.
- **Fostering Intergenerational Discipleship** - Creating mentorship and faith-building opportunities across all ages.
- **Impacting Our Community** - Using resources to share the gospel beyond our church walls.

Hebrews 12:1-2

FAITHFULLY FORWARD

2025 Capital Campaign



YOUR ROLE

Prayer

- That God would bless His people with joy and peace as they give sacrificially.
- That the Body of Christ would remain unified, keeping the mission of making disciples our central focus.
- That the projects committee would have wisdom in managing costs and functionality.

Sacrificial Giving

Our fund-raising goal is bold, and reaching it will require unity and strong participation from the congregation. We are inviting every congregant to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to give sacrificially, trusting that every gift - big or small - will help build a future where more people come to know and follow Christ. Together, we can reach the finish line.

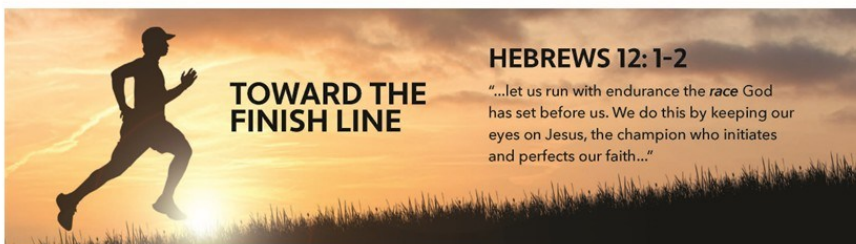
» CONTACT THE RACE DIRECTORS

Steve Gangwish

sjgangwish@gmail.com
(402) 480-4520

Mark Liljehorn

liljehornmark@hotmail.com
(402) 223-9755



HEBREWS 12:1-2

"...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith..."

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.
Proverbs 17:17

June 2025

Celebrations



Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will be at 7:30am in the Multi-purpose Room!

Questions? Contact William Bolen at 308-627-5915

Date	Birthday	Anniversary
	Chinwe Amoo	Dale & Vonnie Martin Gordon & Elizabeth Steele
June 2	Collin Jenkins, Connie Simmons, Kara Stevens	Zach & Kaelyse Adler
June 3	Shawn Krueger, Michaela Watts, Claire Spivey	
June 4	Derek Mitchell, Drew Wagner, Brielle Kenney, Saylor Wagner	Braylen & Alyssa Luke
June 5	Dennis Bedke, Charity Allan, Denton Bradley	
June 6	Kerry McNish, Cassidy Clark, Sonya Griffith	Paul & Amy Pape Soren & Sam Brunken Chris & Kate Roehrich Robert & Elaine Colson
June 7	Julia Sparks, Ben Gillming	Dennis & Lynelle Miller
June 8	Jessica Dunn	
June 9	Tim Martin, Meggan Gangwish	Larry & Elena Schmidt
June 10	Emily de Kluver, Elaine Colson	
June 11	Al Halstead	
June 12	Linda Kay Liscano, Elsie Nordhues	
June 13	Annie Littlejohn	
June 14		Lue & Charity Allan
June 15		Jared & Angela Samuelson
June 16	Pat Wood	
June 17	Larry Kenton, Analise Narcisse	Paul & Robin Hanson
June 18	Jackson Steele, Larry Medley, Ryker Murdoch, Teegan Nordhues	
June 19		John & Kathy Arnold Bill & Mary Peters Clayton & Rochelle Edwards
June 20	Val Gwin, William Rodehorst	Tyler & Jordan Cretacci
June 21		Bill & Reesa Bebb
June 22		
June 23	Addilyn Bettles	Aaron & Kara Estes Joshua & Charice Murdoch
June 24	Brayden Hutsell	
June 25	Jaxon Arehart	
June 26	Joe Limbach, Emmy Moench	Joe & Becky Lucas
June 27	Tyler Brandt, Sheryl Robison	
June 28	Kent Olson, Cody Cervantes Nalani Danielson, Hattie Pape	Gary & Charlene Jezbera Tim & Kyla Martin Ben & KateLyn Gillming Trenton & Lori Reed
June 29	Bennett Murdoch, Melvina Bundy	
June 30	John Bisbee, Jeff Griss, Titus Goodwin, Murphy Narcisse	Jerry & Julie Stall



Card List



At Northridge

5410 17th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
Loree Elliott #15
Carl Gangwish #146
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

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 E 15
Gary Wuehler S 8

At Brookstone Gardens

2615 W 11th St
Kearney, NE 68845
Marvin Gilling 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
Carol Baetz, #81
Charley Hoff, #28

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)

Richard & Arlys Kleckner
44770 Highway 40
Sumner, NE 68878

Charlie Mefferd
Central NE Veteran's Home
Bravo 3 Room B304
4510 E 56th St
Kearney, NE 68847

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

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

Quidon Brown
1909 W 38th St, #4
Kearney, NE 68845

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

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

Ron Mason
Seneca Sunrise
710 Grand Ave #116
Ravenna, NE 68869

Doug DeNeui
Nebraska Veterans Home
4510 E 56th St.
Foxtrot 2 Rm 215
Kearney, NE 68847

Caring



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

June 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 1 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	2 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	3 7:00pm Praise Team	4 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	5 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	6 6:00am Men's Basketball 12:00pm Godly Men in the Workplace (Valentino's)	7
8 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	9 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	10 7:00pm Praise Team	11 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	12 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	13 6:00am Men's Basketball	14
15 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	16 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	17 7:00pm Praise Team	18 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	19 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	20 6:00am Men's Basketball	21 7:30am Men's Breakfast
22 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	23 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	24 7:00pm Praise Team	25 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	26 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	27 6:00am Men's Basketball	28 10:00am Diaper Depot
29 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	30 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	Jul 1	2	3	4	5

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 Kluyster, Assoc. Pastor
mdekluyster@kearneyfb.org

Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor
jpurdy@kearneyfb.org

Lori Reed, Office Manager
Lreed@kearneyfb.org

Jennifer Liljehorn, Business Manager
jliljehorn@kearneyfb.org

Doug Samuelson, Custodial Manager
dsamuelson@kearneyfb.org

Chuck Kreis
Facility Maintenance Manager
ckreis@kearneyfb.org