



the _____ MESSENGER

January /// 2025

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GLORIFY GROW GO
T O G E T H E R

Glorify. Grow. Go.

These three elements are crucial for a faithful life and ministry.

Glorify: *We glorify God by living lives of obedience and affection to him, guided by Scripture, gathering each week as the body of Christ for worship and ministry.*

Grow: *We grow toward spiritual maturity by increasing in biblical wisdom, trust, love, and obedience to Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Go: *We go by sharing the gospel in our daily lives and together as a church to reach our community and world.*

As we begin this new year, let's pray that God will give us the grace we need to accomplish his will together.

Pick up a reading plan in the Welcome Center beginning December 15



Grow in the Word

2025 Bible Reading Plan

GLORIFY GROW GO
TOGETHER

Grow in the Word 2025

Are you wanting to grow in your faith this next year? Are you stuck in your Bible reading? Have you ever wanted to read through the entire Bible in a year? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are encouraged to *Grow in the Word* in 2025. This is a church-wide Bible reading initiative that will begin on January 1, 2025. Stop by the Welcome Center beginning **December 15th** to get more information and log on to <https://www.fbcdandridge.org/grow-in-the-word> to download your copy today.



FIRST THOUGHTS

Keeping Our Focus on the Future

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..." - Philippians 3:13

Someone once noted that there's a reason the rearview mirror in a car is close to six inches wide and the front windshield is around six feet wide: while it's important to keep an eye on what's behind, the majority of our focus should be on what's ahead.

The same is true when it comes to our focus as a church. When we look back at the past year, there is so much to celebrate and learn from. We praise God for the numerous baptisms and new members, the growth in spiritual maturity and unity, the successful programs and events, the new friendships and partnerships, and the remarkable levels of giving and serving. Additionally, the Lord also taught us valuable lessons through our failures, struggles, and losses, many of which we are eager to leave behind.

But while 2024 was another successful year of ministry, we shouldn't keep our focus on all that we accomplished in the past. Neither should we dwell on our mistakes. Rather, the majority of our focus needs to be on what's ahead, on what God wants us to accomplish in 2025. Let me give you a few goals for this upcoming year.

- **Church Attendance:** In recent years, studies have shown a rapid decrease in regular worship attendance. Lifeway Research discovered that the average family only attends church 1.8 times per month, meaning less than two Sundays. Some might reason that families and individuals are busier these days, not having enough time for worship each week. However, I wonder how much of this has to do with our priorities? Do we really value weekly worship more than everything else? The Lord tells us not to neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some (Heb. 10:25). We need the spiritual development and encouragement that being at church each week offers. In 2025, let's prioritize church attendance.
- **Finding a Place to Serve:** While many begin a new year looking for a new hobby or activity, why not look for a place to serve at church? The Holy Spirit has equipped believers with spiritual gifts and sanctified skills, all for the purpose of serving God and others

(Rom. 12:6). There are many places to serve in our church. Let us help you find a place in 2025.

- **Being Sacrificial in Our Giving:** One of the responsibilities of being a faithful church member is to support the ministries of the church through financial giving. We have a large number of ministries, programs, facilities, and ministry personnel to support, so making a regular offering to the Lord is a must to keep all of these areas funded. Just remember, *"whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Cor. 9:6). Even though it requires a weekly sacrifice to give, we will never out give God. The Lord will always provide everything you need when you give to him with a joyful heart. In 2025, let's be more sacrificial than ever!
- **Reaching Our County:** We've all heard the statistics that around 70% of Jefferson County is unchurched. These numbers are what we would expect in a metro area like Detroit, or even a closed country like Afghanistan. However, seven of ten people within a few miles of our campus will not be in church this Sunday. Let that sink in for a moment. Now ask yourself, "What am I doing to make a difference?" We as a church need to do all we can to reach our local community with the gospel. There is no better goal for 2025 than to have meaningful gospel conversations with those around us. At the least, invite them to join you at church. Who else will reach them if we don't?

I'm really looking forward to all that God is going to do in us and through us in 2025. Let's join together and keep our focus on what's ahead!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Justin

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Welcome Joel Ogle

We want to welcome Joel Ogle as our Interim Worship Pastor! Pastor Joel has held both interim and full-time worship pastor positions over the past 15 years, and his experience extends to teaching, outreach, student ministry, and communications. He holds numerous ministry degrees and certificates, including a Master of Divinity from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Psychology/Theology from Liberty University, with a focus on Christian Counseling. Joel and his wife, Amber, reside in Sevierville. We extend our heartfelt prayers for Pastor Joel as he guides us in worship during this transitional period.



Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 PM

Meet in the choir room behind the sanctuary.

*Rehearsal resumes on January 8th.

INDIANAPOLIS CHURCH PLANT



Exciting news! We have prayerfully decided to partner with a church in Indianapolis to help plant a Providence Church in the small town of Speedway, IN. This is an incredible opportunity to be part of God's work in reaching new people with the hope of the gospel—let's pray, give, and GO TOGETHER. We will be sharing ways to get involved very soon.

THE NEED IN SPEEDWAY:

This is a friendly small town on the west side of Indianapolis that is home to Indianapolis Motor Speedway and 14,000 people. It is inside the Indianapolis city limits and within 3 miles of town where there are 117,000 people. There are 73,000 people who do not attend ANY church. There are few gospel-centered churches to reach this mission field.



STUDENT MINISTRY



We are going to take 2025 to GROW TOGETHER as we spend time with Jesus each day. This plan is a great way to take your first steps in bible reading. You can pick up a reading plan in the Student Room, Welcome Center, or at www.fbcdandridge.org/grow-in-the-word.

2025 LIFE GROUPS:

Hinchey Life Group resumes **February 4**
Ogle Life Group resumes **February 9**



This summer we are going back to the beach for summer camp! We believe this will be an incredible week filled with sand, waves, worship, Bible study, fellowship, late night events and more. The cost is \$275 with a \$50 deposit due at registration. Registration opens on January 15th!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Crossings Camp - June 21st - 24th

It's already time to start thinking about camp! We're going to have an awesome time at Carson Springs playing games, eating good food, studying God's Word, and making memories! This camp is for children going into grades 3-6 (currently 2nd-5th). The cost of the camp is \$175 with a \$50 deposit due at registration. Register by February 26th to get \$25 off! Registration opens on January 15th.

Magnified! - June 9th - 13th

Save the Date!

Magnified! VBS will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We can praise God together! We were made to magnify God!

FIRSTKIDS MEMORY VERSE

DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT
YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE
APPROVED, A WORKER WHO HAS
NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED,
RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD
OF TRUTH.
- 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec - 29	Dec - 30	Dec - 31	Jan - 1	Jan - 2	Jan - 3	Jan - 4
			<p>ALL DAY Jefferson County & Lakeway Schools Closed</p> <p>ALL DAY New Year's Day - Church Office Closed</p> <p>ALL DAY New Year's Day</p>	<p>ALL DAY Jefferson County & Lakeway Schools Closed</p> <p>10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group</p>	<p>ALL DAY Jefferson County & Lakeway Schools Closed</p>	
Jan - 5	Jan - 6	Jan - 7	Jan - 8	Jan - 9	Jan - 10	Jan - 11
<p>9:15a - 10:15a Bible Fellowship</p> <p>10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service</p> <p>11:45a - 12:45p Deacon Meeting</p> <p>4p - 6p Grief Share</p>	<p>ALL DAY Jefferson County & Lakeway Schools Closed</p> <p>9a - 10a Staff Meeting</p>		<p>4:45p - 5:45p Weds. Night Dinner</p> <p>6p - 7p FBCD Students</p> <p>6p - 7p Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6p - 7:15p FirstKids</p> <p>6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group</p>		
Jan - 12	Jan - 13	Jan - 14	Jan - 15	Jan - 16	Jan - 17	Jan - 18
<p>10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service</p> <p>4p - 5p Adult Bible Fellowship Teacher Meeting</p> <p>4p - 6p Children's Ministry Training</p> <p>4p - 6p Grief Share</p> <p>5p - 6p Dive! Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>9a - 10a Staff Meeting</p>		<p>4:45p - 5:45p Weds. Night Dinner</p> <p>6p - 7p FBCD Students</p> <p>6p - 7p Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6p - 7:15p FirstKids</p> <p>6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group</p>		
Jan - 19	Jan - 20	Jan - 21	Jan - 22	Jan - 23	Jan - 24	Jan - 25
<p>10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service</p> <p>4p - 5p Women's Prayer Group</p> <p>4p - 6p Grief Share</p> <p>5p - 6p Women on Mission</p>	<p>ALL DAY Jefferson County & Lakeway Schools Closed</p> <p>ALL DAY Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>9a - 10a Staff Meeting</p>		<p>4:45p - 5:45p Weds. Night Dinner</p> <p>6p - 7p FBCD Students</p> <p>6p - 7p Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6p - 7:15p FirstKids</p> <p>6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group</p>		
Jan - 26	Jan - 27	Jan - 28	Jan - 29	Jan - 30	Jan - 31	Feb - 1
<p>10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship w/ Lord's Supper</p> <p>4p - 6p Grief Share</p>	<p>9a - 10a Staff Meeting</p>		<p>4:45p - 5:45p Weds. Night Dinner</p> <p>6p - 7p FBCD Students</p> <p>6p - 7p Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6p - 7:15p FirstKids</p> <p>6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group</p>		

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Winter Weather Policy

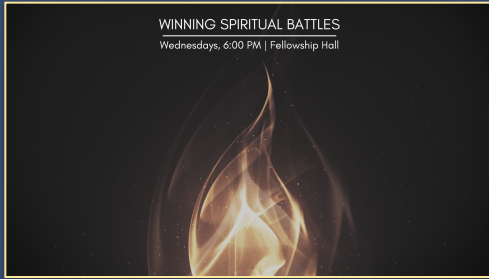
FBCD will hold all services and activities as scheduled, weather permitting, and make decisions to cancel activities on a case-by-case basis. Should it become necessary to cancel an activity, members of that group will be notified via Realm which will include both an email and a text message. For a church-wide cancellation, all methods of communication will be used including text, email, social media, Realm, telephone, and website. Please make sure your contact information, particularly cell phone number, is up-to-date to receive these important messages.



Online Sign Up Information

Have you asked the question, I wonder how to sign up for that event? To get the latest on the FBCD Event Sign Up information, simply click the following link, <https://fbcandridge.typeform.com/signup> or scan the QR Code above to take you directly to all the available events to get you signed up.

FBC DANDRIDGE HAPPENINGS



Winning Spiritual Battles

The life of a Christian is one that is in constant battle. Not a battle on foreign soil, but one that is waged within our hearts. The Bible teaches that Satan and his demons are doing all they can to distract our minds, deceive our hearts, draw us into sin, and destroy our relationships with God and others. However, what if we could know the enemy's tactics and strategies before he attacks? How much more success could we have if we only knew his ways?

Beginning in mid-January, we will launch an eight-week study aimed at helping us win these spiritual battles by examining the methods and strategies that our enemy uses. Our study will be based on the book, "*Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*," written by the seventeenth century Puritan, Thomas Brooks.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

- Eph. 6:11

Holiday Schedule and Church Office Closed

Dec. 26 & 27 - Church Office opened from 8:30 AM -12:00 Noon

Dec. 29 - Bible Fellowship and Morning Worship Service

Dec. 30 - Church Office opened from 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Dec. 31 - Church Office Closed

Jan. 1 - Church Office Closed

Jan. 8 - Weds. Night Activities resume

Lottie Moon Post Office

Please check for cards addressed to YOU! Any cards remaining after Sunday, **January 5**, will be discarded.

Year-End Contributions

2024 Contributions for tax purposes can be submitted in the following ways and no later than the following dates:

- **Sunday, December 29** - to the Church Offering Boxes
- **Monday, December 30** - to the Church Office **by 12:00-Noon**
- **Tuesday, December 31** - postmarked or given online

2025 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes are now available for pickup in the Welcome Center. If you do not have personally assigned envelopes and would like to have some, please contact the Church Office.

Ladies' Dive! Bible Study

Ladies, please join us for our next Dive! study as we discuss truth when we feel unaccepted by looking at Ephesians 2:8. If you are reading along, please read Chapter 5 of *Dwell Differently*. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, **January 12**, at 5pm in Room 216! Check out the Dive! Women's Ministry Resource page where you can access study notes and session recordings from our monthly studies at <https://www.fbcdandridge.org/dive>.



Prayer Group and Women on Mission

These groups will meet on **January 19** in the Fellowship Hall beginning with the Prayer Group at 4:00 PM followed by Women on Mission at 5:00 PM. Our WOM Bible study and prayer time will focus on the LMCO International Missions Prayer Guide. All ladies are invited!



GriefShare

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At GriefShare, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief in all its unpredictability and gain support each step of the way. At each meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. GriefShare will meet on Sundays beginning **January 5** at 4:00 pm in the Conference Room.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
D A N D R I D G E

951 Hwy 92 S - PO Box 246
Dandridge, TN 37725

Current Resident or

General Information

Ministerial Staff:

- Dr. Justin Terrell, Senior Pastor
justin@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Cory Hammett, Pastor of Spiritual Growth & Missions
cory@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Josh Ogle, Pastor of Students & Families
josh@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Joe Hanks, Pastor of Children & Families
joe@fbcdandridge.org

Support Staff:

- Lauren Opeil, Ministry Assistant
lauren@fbcdandridge.org
- Alicia Linsley, Ministry Assistant
alicia@fbcdandridge.org
- Diane Marshall, Church Accountant
diane@fbcdandridge.org
- Chauncey Burt, Maintenance & Grounds Manager
- Jody Tatum, Custodian/Maintenance
- Donna McDonald, Chef/Food Services
- Michelle Johnson, Pianist
- Jerry Price, Organist

Church Office: (865) 397-3940

Bible Fellowship Report

Average Attendance

	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Preschool	16	15
Children	24	26
Youth	39	30
Adult	229	211
Offsite	0	0
Overall average	308	282

Worship Attendance Average for
November – TBD

Financial Report

	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Fund Goal	\$113,655.68	\$1,335,454.24
Budget Receipts	\$90,029.21	\$1,298,385.34
Building Fund Receipts	3,140.00	41,670.00
Designated Receipts	<u>20,819.53</u>	<u>358,021.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$113,988.74	\$1,698,076.34
