LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

the

LINK

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus Christ as we love, learn and live the word of God.



NOVEMBER 2026

Contact Us!

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⇒ On a Mission!!!

⇒ So Much Thanks!

⇒ Did You See The Window?

⇒ Advent? Already!?

⇒ Were Missions Mentioned Yet???

FBC Food Collection:
(716) 652-7272

November—Canned Ravioli
December—Fruit
January—Canned Hash, Stew, Chili

I heard a story recently about a teacher who asked her students to bring in an item that represented their faith. Interesting assignment!

A Catholic student brought in a crucifix. A Jewish student brought in a menorah. And a Baptist student brought in a casserole dish. Silly child.

But it did remind me, our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, immediately following the worship service. I want to encourage all our members to attend. We'll be discussing the church's budget and voting on a few important matters, so it's especially important for those in active membership to be present.

And if you're not a member, you're still welcome to join us! It's a great opportunity to learn a little more about how our church operates and where we're headed.

Oh, and did I mention there will be a potluck luncheon? Because nothing says church business quite like discussing the budget over a plate of good food! I mean, we are Baptist after all.

Hope to see you there!

-Pastor Paul

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made Pastor Appreciation Sunday so special. I was truly touched by your kindness, your thoughtful expressions of appreciation, and your generous gift. It means more than you may realize to know that the time and effort I put into serving this church are valued and appreciated. It is a privilege to serve alongside you as we seek to grow in faith, share the love of Christ, and discover what God has in store for our church. Thank you for your encouragement, your generosity, and the opportunity to be your pastor. I am genuinely grateful and blessed to be part of this church family.

-Pastor Paul

Did you notice? The stained-glass window at the front of our church is looking a little brighter, a little clearer, and, most importantly, is now more secure!

In October, work was completed to replace the framework that supports the window and clean the glass. The exterior plexiglass covering was also replaced with a clearer covering, allowing more sunlight to shine through and bringing out the beauty of the stained glass.

So, the next time you're in church, take a moment to look up and appreciate the renewed beauty of this familiar feature of our building—and give thanks to those who helped make it possible!



Pastor's Thoughts

Don't look now, but it is November! But you likely knew that based on the way that nature appears to be winding down for a nap. Your lawn has received its last trim of 2026. The once vibrant color of the leaves is beginning to fade and the leaves are falling. The geese, along with other species, have headed south.

And we prepare as well. The lawn furniture is stored until spring. The windows are closed, the furnace has been tuned up.

November is also the month when we turn our attention to gratitude. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and we begin thinking about family, friends, good food, and the blessings we sometimes take for granted. But gratitude is about more than a holiday or a full table. It is about learning to recognize God's goodness even when life doesn't look exactly the way we hoped it would.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:18,

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Notice that Paul doesn't tell us to be thankful for every circumstance, but to give thanks in every circumstance. There is a difference. Life brings its share of disappointments, worries, and unexpected challenges. Some of us will approach this Thanksgiving with joyful hearts; others may feel the absence of someone we love, face uncertain circumstances, or carry burdens that make celebration difficult.

Yet even in those moments, we can find reasons to be thankful. We can be grateful for God's presence when we feel alone, His strength when we feel weak, and His promises when the road ahead seems uncertain. Our circumstances may change, but God's faithfulness does not.

Perhaps that is one of the most important lessons November can teach us: **gratitude isn't dependent on having a perfect life; it grows from recognizing a faithful God.**

And gratitude has a way of changing how we see the world. When we begin looking for God's blessings, we discover them in places we might otherwise overlook—in a conversation with a friend, a helping hand offered at just the right moment, a kind word from a stranger, or the simple opportunity to encourage someone who needs it. We begin to realize that we have more to give than we sometimes imagine.

This is especially important as we look toward the Christmas season. Before the decorations go up and the familiar songs begin playing everywhere we go, November gives us an opportunity to prepare our hearts. We can begin by sharing the blessings we have received. A phone call, a visit, an invitation to church, or a quiet act of kindness may mean more to someone than we will ever know.

As a church family, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for those who faithfully serve, those who give generously, those who pray quietly behind the scenes, and those who welcome others with open hearts. We are thankful for the opportunities God gives us to serve our neighbors and share the hope we have found in Jesus Christ. And we can be thankful for every person who walks through our doors, whether they have been part of our congregation for decades or are visiting for the very first time.

We may not know what the coming months will bring. Winter will arrive, the days will grow colder, and life will continue to present its share of challenges. But we do not face the future alone. The God who has been faithful in the past will remain faithful in the days ahead.

So this November, let's do more than count our blessings. Let's share them. Let's make room at our tables, extend a hand to someone in need, encourage someone who is discouraged, and remind one another that hope is not found in perfect circumstances but in a perfect Savior.

And as we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, may we remember that the greatest blessings in life are not always the ones wrapped in pretty packages or served on our favorite plates. Sometimes they are the people beside us, the faith that sustains us, the grace that restores us, and the love of God that never lets us go.

May this November be a season of grateful hearts, generous hands, and renewed hope. And may we enter the coming season remembering the words of Psalm 107:1:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: Advent & Christmas at Our Church
Blessings everyone! It is the time of year when we slowdown from the hustle and bustle to truly count our blessings. As we prepare our hearts and homes for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are excited to share our upcoming Advent plans.

This year, we are continuing several of our traditional activities alongside a few thoughtful updates:
Nativity Displays: After being so well received last year, we will continue displaying Nativities around the church. As you dig out your own holiday decorations, please set your Nativities aside to share with our communal display!

A New Approach to Worship: We have decided to discontinue "Bell Sunday" this year. While it was a fun tradition we found the bell-ringing during the sermon to be a bit distracting last year. We are excited to replace it with a new tradition soon.

Angel Tree: Our Angel Tree will feature gift tags for the congregation to take. Please help us bless those in need by purchasing the requested item and returning it to the church.

Poinsettias: Congregation members will once again have the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to display in our sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens & Nativity Displays

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent / Cookie Sunday

December 15 – Angel Tree Gifts Due

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent / Special Music Sunday

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

Hopefully you are looking forward to the season as much as I am. Let me know if you have any ideas.

-Blessings, Kathryn

Haiti Mission Foundation

Needed: people who can measure, people who can use a scissors, people who can stuff items into a bag, people who can count, people who can match colors, people who can use an iron, people who can sew, people who love to fellowship with like- minded people. If you fit any of those categories and are free on November12 join in the Birthing Bag event in the fellowship hall at church, any time form 9AM until 2. Lunch will be provided.

A you know, First Baptist is committed to providing for the needs of the Haitian poor served by the clinic, schools, and orphanages overseen by the Robert Ford Foundation. We make a monetary donation, sew clothing, and assemble birthing bags for safe home deliveries. We collect t-shirts and other items to be shipped to Haiti or hand carried during 2 annual mission trips by volunteers.

This month we are collecting **chewable vitamins** for both adults and children (no Gummies please). Please consider purchasing one or more bottles of vitamins and leave them in the basket in the entry of church. Cash donations are always welcome.

Happy November
birthday to:

2—Jake Novick
2—Kate Novick
11—Sheila Cahoon
14—Liz Bove
23—Sharleen Novick
23—Rick Hanavan
24—Ann Gallison
25—Vera Stolzenberg





The First Baptist Church of East Aurora
591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

Missions Committee

"*To love one another as I have loved you*". John 13:34.

Dated 09/23/2026

The Missions Committee met on Wednesday 09/23/2026. Attendees included Dan Novick (Chairperson), Lisa Bertrand, Pastor Paul Stolzenberg, Lendra Kress, Jodi Gallson, and Kathryn Smith.

Opening prayer by Pastor Paul at 7:07 pm.

Budget: There was a discussion of the Missions Committee Budget for 2026 with Financial Statement of August 2026 presented for review. Total Missions disbursements in August 2026 = $1,355; Spending YTD = $7,118; Annual 2026 budget = $9,100; plus remnants of the 2025 land sale = approximately $2,900. Checks for Seneca Gospel Mission ($300) and Rahab Ministries have been written. Total remaining 2026 Mission funds available approximately = $4,500.

Seneca Gospel Mission: We supported the Seneca Gospel Mission on 09/20/2026 with about 7 people (preparing and serving food) – which was incredible! Sign-up Lists for the Seneca Gospel Mission Lunch Volunteers is available on the back table of the Church. Next events are scheduled for Sunday 10/18/2026. Because there is other organization to support Seneca Gospel during the Christmas holidays – we are not scheduled to support for the months of November and December of 2026.

Haiti Missions (Robert Ford Foundation):

- We are tentatively planning to support the Haiti Orphanage with donations of vitamins and t-shirts during the month of Oct-Nov 2026.

- There will be a Helping Hands for Haiti Sewing Event on Thursday 11/14/2026 from 9am to 2 pm. We are looking for volunteers to sew dresses and skirts, and we will then ship them to Haiti. A preapproved $500 payment, already in the budget, was authorized by the Committee Chairperson (Dan Novick).

Fish of East Aurora: We continue to collect food for FISH. This month we are asking for donations of tomato based products. The FISH Chairperson will be visiting our Church on Oct 11 to show her appreciation for our congregations continued support.

RISE Fundraiser Results: On September 18 there was a fundraising event for RISE at Rob's Comedy Playhouse. We are happy to report that $4,335 was raised to support RISE youth ministries in the downtown Buffalo area.

Missions Envelope Donations: We will be conducting Mission Envelope Donations starting on the first Sunday service of each month, and then continuing with a new charity each month. The following charities and dates are identified:

- October – One Great Hour of Sharing. This is an international Baptist Charity organization designed to respond to natural disasters across the USA and internationally.

- November – Amy's Place of Hope (tentative pending verification). This is a homeless shelter for veterans in Buffalo NY.

- December - RISE. The RISE Coffee House is operated by Seneca Gospel Mission. The objective is to offer free coffee and Christian fellowship/mentoring to downtown youth.

- February 2027 – Salvation Army Buffalo Temple Corps located at 187 Grant St in downtown Buffalo. This charity provides food, shelter, job training to the most needy in Buffalo NY.

- March – Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This charity helps support the construction of beds for people who do not have a bed frame or mattress to sleep on in our community. Donations will be accepted to include mattress covers, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, blankets, etc.). Only twin-size bedding is accepted!

Closing Prayer by Pastor Paul at 8:10 pm.

Submitted Respectfully,

Daniel J. Novick, Missions Committee Chairperson