

**First Baptist Church**  
**11721 Main Street**  
**Middletown, KY 40243**

Address Correction Requested

### **Sundays**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### **Wednesdays**

5:30 p.m. Dinner Served, Cost \$7  
6:30 p.m. Children's Activities,  
Adult Bible Study; Adult Choir.

### **Office Hours:**

**M-Th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Office Phone: 245-7889**  
**[www.fbcmtown.org](http://www.fbcmtown.org)**



## **Future Without Walls Sanctuary and Building Renovation**

**Balance to-date less expenses:**  
**\$39,500**



*– Live Longer and Love It!*

We do not meet this month, but our wish is that everyone will enjoy the Season allowing time for quiet reflection about the reason we even celebrate Christmas. Fortunately, the time of “I want, I want, I want,” has passed for many of us. It has changed to, “What do you want?” to our friends.

Even better, it has become, “What do YOU want Jesus?” I believe He enjoys hearing that from us even more so when we follow up by listening to His answer. “Walk in My steps.” Remember to take frequent breaks this month to listen to Him!

### **ETC for December:**

- 1– Trey Edwards, Tim Sorrell, and Amanda Mullins
- 8– Penny Bruce, Tammy White, Cyndi Hoffman, and Gerald Jones
- 15– Sharon Carr, Lisa Harvey, Susan Bowles and Avery Lee
- 22– Blair Close, Rob Lafleur, Aurora Mullins and Judy Jones,
- 29– Melissa Hicks, Wanda Lambdin and Emily King



FIRST BAPTIST MIDDLETOWN  
A Church Without Walls

# The Sower

**December 2024**

[www.fbcmtown.org](http://www.fbcmtown.org)

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## STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Jim Cobban**  
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**Rev. Susan Bowles,**  
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**Mary Rumsey**  
Office Manager  
[mrumsy@fbcmtown.org](mailto:mrumsy@fbcmtown.org)  
(502)245-7889

## Light Up Middletown

6:00 pm at City Hall

(not old Methodist Church)

Friday, December 6

## Senior Joy Ride

Thursday, December 12, 9:00 am

French Lick and West Baden Resorts

Lunch at the German Café

Reservation Required

## Mary and Joseph Supper

Sunday, December 22, 6 pm

Celebration Hall

Reservations not required

## Holiday Banquet

Sunday, December 8, 6 pm

Celebration Hall

Reservations requested

## Advent Begins

Sunday, December 1, 11 am



## Pastor's Page Dr. Jim Cobban

How could twenty-five years pass so quickly? The whole Cobban family is beyond grateful for your many kind words and cards to celebrate our anniversary on November 17. Along the way we have picked up some daughters-in-law and some grandkids, some gray hair (I have—but not Cristi!), many new church members, lots of church memories, and many, many brothers and sisters in Christ whom we call “friends.” Thank you for welcoming us then and now!

As you know by now, we welcomed Julie Halitzka as a permanent member of the church’s staff back in November. Julie brings many gifts—many more than most of you have seen yet! Julie’s title is Director of Music and Worship and that includes so much more than Sunday mornings. She is gradually moving into all the media areas of the church. We are all becoming aware of how important a church’s digital life is in these days. When you have the opportunity, welcome Julie and George to First Baptist permanently!

December at First Baptist is a beautiful season and I’m looking forward to what is ahead. A complete listing of all the holiday happenings is in this month’s Sower. Try every way you can not to miss a single one!

In November, the Metal Ministry donated it’s eleventh “white envelope” with \$1,000 in it. This makes over \$160,000 that First Baptist has collected since 2011. That’s \$160,000 of scrap metal that was not dumped into a landfill but recycled and reused; and money that has helped renovate the church campus. THE hero of the metal ministry is our “patron saint,” Jim Gries. Jim started it in the trunk of his Buick Park Avenue back in 2010. He is still the official “collector” of the funds. Jim continues to show us all the spirit of love and generosity that has marked his whole life. We love you, Jim and Jane!

Every year, Troop 321 at Middletown United Methodist Church delivers food they have collected to our Blessings Box. This year, they delivered 1,700+ food items! We are all grateful to the Boy Scouts for their leg work and their generosity! Look for their picture in the next column. The food will stock our Blessings Box for many months.

On Sunday, December 8, the church will hold a special business meeting at the end of the morning worship service for the sole purpose of filling a vacancy on the Deacon Council. Following the bylaws, the Deacons are nominating Jack Mullins to fill the remaining twenty months of an unexpired term. Please be in worship that day and stay for a brief business meeting. We will hold an ordination service for Jack sometime in January.

*Jim*



## Young Adults Ministry Rev. Gabe Close, Minister of Young Adults

**Young Couples Sunday School Class Christmas:** Well, it’s nearly impossible to find time during the Christmas season to have a Sunday School party when you have children and a million other things to do. So, the Young Couples Class will be having a Christmas Party after Christmas on January 4th at 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned for more details!

**Bible Study:** Our young adults are attending a number of different Sunday Morning Bible Study classes. Tony Tabor is leading the young couples class, Pat Rhodes is leading the Mesa class, and Dr. Cobban is leading a class. The young couples class is currently focusing on a series on *Gratitude*. *If you are interested in getting involved,*



**The Music Ministry**  
**Julie Halitzka, Director of Music**  
**and Worship Leader**

We have so many worship & music events going on in December - please join us - and **invite someone who does not usually attend to join you!** Many people are more spiritually curious and open to attending faith events around the holidays.

Mark your calendar for:

Holiday Banquet - Dec 8th, 6pm

Christmas Program - Dec 15th, 11am

Mary & Joseph Supper - Dec 22nd, 6pm

Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24th, 5pm

If you want to serve as part of the Music and Worship ministries, please reach out to me at [jhalitzka@fbcmtown.org](mailto:jhalitzka@fbcmtown.org) - I'd love to connect and help you find a place to use your gifts!



**SATURDAY ACTING CLASS FOR STUDENTS**

Saturday Acting and Improv Class gives young actors in grades 4-6 the chance to build their skills and perform a play—and it's held right here at First Baptist! For the first hour of each class, we'll focus on improvisation, learning the basics of performing without a script. Improv is a skill that every performer should have and a whole lot of fun. For the remainder of each class, we'll rehearse a scripted play to perform at the end of our final session. Acting and Improv Class will be challenging, community-building... and of course, FANTASTIC! We'll see you onstage!

Saturdays, February 1—March 8, 2025 9:00—12:30

Grades 4-6, the Cost is \$225

Register online: [www.dramabygeorge.com/saturday](http://www.dramabygeorge.com/saturday)



**Senior Adult**  
**Ministry**  
**Lisa Harvey & Justine Rostel**



**~JoyRide - for the Joy of Christian Fellowship!~**

We had such a good experience the last time we ventured to SoIn, let's do it again! What is more fun than seeing beautiful Christmas decorations, having lunch with great friends, and doing a little shopping? Our trip will include West Baden Springs Hotel, French Lick Hotel and lunch at German Café, located at 452 S. Maple Street. Sign up sheet on the table outside the church office. Please be in the lobby and ready to leave at 9:00 am on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The van will leave promptly at 9:15 am. \$3 donation requested. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Harvey or Justine Rostel.

This is the final Joy Ride of 2024. Thank you to everyone who came along for the rides. We have had wonderful times and made lots of great memories. Plans for 2025 are already in the making, so stay tuned. You never know where we will be heading next!

We also would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a very happy new year!



**West Baden Hotel**



**French Lick Springs Hotel**



**The German Café**



**Children's Ministry**  
**Susan Bowles,**  
**Minister of Children**

As I thought about my article for December, I am reminded so often of the verse that has become important for me. Isaiah 43:19 says "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." NLT

Rev. Laura Ayala, Coordinator of Global Missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, reminded us of this passage in her message during our mission month. It has been on my mind and in my heart since that day.

As we anticipate the season of Advent, which begins December 1, I am excited about the celebration of Christ's birth and the awaiting of His coming. I am confident that there are "new things" for me to see and experience. How are you feeling these days about the approaching of our Advent season? I know God will always make a pathway for us. I look forward to seeing what God will be showing me and what he wants us as a Church family to see.

As we experience this exciting season of Advent, just a couple of reminders of family events for you.

December 8, 2024 is our Family Holiday Banquet at 6:00 pm in Celebration Hall. Make reservation by signing up, or call or email mrumsey@fbcmtown.org.

December 22, 2024, is our Mary and Joseph Dinner at 6:00 pm in Celebration Hall. Preschool child-care is available by reservations only. Birth-Kindergarten. Call Mrs. Susan or Mary to register.

The new year will be here soon, and I wanted to give you some events for your calendars.

January 19, 2025, the \$60.00 deposit for Passport Children and Youth Camp is due.

June 8-12, 2025 Vacation Bible School. 5:30—8:00; 3 years to 5th grade.

June 17-20, 2025 Passport Kids camp at Berea University

June 30-July 4, 2025 Passport Youth Camp at Berea University

2025 will be an exciting and wonderful year for our Preschoolers, Children, and their families, with more events to come.

Watching our children grow, learn, and have fun at church is one of my greatest pleasures.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Love and Joy,

Susan

Have you used our children's lending library? It's available every Sunday morning and Wednesday night!

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

**Youth Ministries**  
**Directors of Student Ministries**



**Thank You, Youth!**

Our youth have been hard at work spreading joy this holiday season! A huge thank-you for helping pack shoeboxes for Olive Branch Ministries. These gifts will bring smiles to children across Eastern Kentucky this Christmas. It's incredible to see our young people living their faith through service!

**Save the Date: Youth Christmas Party**

Mark your calendar for December 21st at 5:00 PM! Pastor Jim, Cristi, and the CLT are hosting a festive Christmas Party for the youth. Ice skating followed by food! Details will be shared via email and the church bulletin soon.

**Youth Camp Reminder**

Deposits for youth camp are due by January 19! Reserve your spot and get ready for a summer of spiritual growth and connection. June 30 to July 4 at Berea University. A life-changing experience guaranteed!

**We Want to Hear From You!**

The CLT is preparing a survey to gather your input for the future of our youth ministry. Keep an eye on your email and share your thoughts—it matters!

Thank you for encouraging our youth as they grow in faith, love, and service. Let's continue to nurture the next generation of disciples!

Blessings,

Your CLT - Jenny, Emily, Tim & Jaxon





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

## **December 2024**

**1 Sunday: First Sunday of Advent, "Hope"**

**4 Wednesday: 6:00 Christmas Choir Rehearsal**

**6 Friday: 6:00 Light Up Middletown!**

**8 Sunday: 11:00 Second Sunday of Advent, "Peace," 6:00 Holiday Banquet**

**11 Wednesday: 6:00 Christmas Choir Dress Rehearsal**

**12 Thursday: 9:00 Joy Ride to French Lick and West Baden, Indiana**

**15 Sunday: 11:00 Third Sunday of Advent, "Joy," Christmas Music Program**

**18 Wednesday: Choir Christmas Party; no other activities or meal**

**21 Saturday: 5:00 Youth Christmas Party, ice skating and the Cobban's home**

**22 Sunday: 11:00 Fourth Sunday of Advent, "Love," 6:00 Mary & Joseph Supper**

**24 Tuesday: 5:00 Christmas Eve Worship, Church Office Closed**

**25 Wednesday: Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed**

**26 Thursday: 9:00 Red Cross Blood Drive in Celebration Hall**

**29 Sunday: 11:00 Worship Service**

**31 Tuesday: Happy New Year's Eve! Church Office Closes at noon.**