



# The SOWER

**February 2024**

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

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## CONVERSATION CAFÉ!

But, what is it?? When is the last time you had a really great in-depth talk with your friends? CC is a 90-minute guided conversation where anyone is welcome to join and all opinions are respected! The first one will be Friday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. in Celebration Hall. The topic will be announced one week prior. Bring a snack to share. Light supper provided. Reservations will be necessary. More info coming!

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Middletown

In Worship Concert

**DORISSA  
HOBBS  
AND FRIENDS**

11721 Main Street, Middletown, KY

FEBRUARY | 18 | 2024

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
 No Tickets Required -- Public Welcome



## Pastor's Page

### Dr. Jim Cobban



Last night (January 17) was a GREAT first night of our new Wednesday Dinner schedule. The food was delicious, the fellowship was warm, and attendance was superb! A shout out to Christine Kimmel and Terry Hildreth for being our "logistics officers"! Here's the catch, we are able to have dinners back because of volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. And, we need you! The work is easy and the schedule should repeat about once a quarter. Email Mary at [mrumsey@fbcmtown.org](mailto:mrumsey@fbcmtown.org) to volunteer and Christine will get back with you. Fellowship around a table is as old as the church, and I've missed it!

We are trying some NEW outreach ideas in 2024. During the cold months, we are doing a monthly "Conversation Café." The first one was in January but they are not sequential. Try it out on Friday, February 16, in Celebration Hall. NO charge and a light meal is served. When is the last time you had a great conversation? NO politics, NO speeches, NO hostility: JUST good conversation. Come and try it! Topic to be announced in early February. More of our outreach plans for '24 are four "Parking Lot Summer Jams." The first one will be Friday, May 31, with the Atone Band. They do your favorite Motown and newer R&B. These events are designed for you to invite your friends to a "non-churchy" gathering at the church! We are hoping to make great contacts with several new people. There will be one each month through September. A flyer is being produced with all the bands and dates. Flavaville Food Truck will be on hand and their items will be specially discounted for these events. Save the date for the first one!

The Personnel Committee meets every week to guide the process for the search to find our next Minister of Music. A survey will be going out via email and a paper copy distributed on Sundays and Wednesdays early in February. This is your first chance to give feedback to the committee – but there will be more chances!

I am thrilled to welcome Tammy Gibson as our Interim Director of Music. She will start the first Sunday of February and is willing to stay with us as long as necessary. She is a lifelong Methodist! Do you think we can make a Baptist out of her? Since her husband is the pastor of Middletown United Methodist, I'd say the chances are slim. Be here on Sunday, February 4 to welcome her!

I don't need to tell you how much I love and appreciate Leslie and her spirit that has permeated the church for twenty-eight years. We'll still see her around and will continue to be in our lives, I'm sure. I know that Tammy "ain't Leslie," and that will be hard. But God is good and will guide us.

One last thing . . . SAVE THE DATE: Mission Trip to Skopje, Macedonia, September 20-29. More details coming soon!!

## Counseling Ministry

**Rev. Jay Close, Pastoral Counselor**

How's your trust?

Trust is putting your well-being in another's hands, believing they are on your side, working for your benefit. To trust someone can be a risk of being hurt or overlooked. In relationships, hopefully you are also trustworthy. When there is a track record of mutual trust, it is a beautiful thing with lots of benefits.

Trust is so important that people notice when it is not present. Sometimes we take it for granted when trust is there, but it becomes painfully obvious when it is not. When you don't feel you can trust someone you feel ill at ease. The risk of telling them something vulnerable is too great, cooperating with them on tasks to be done has some danger. Trust is so powerful that it makes everything go more smoothly and its absence gums up the works in marriages, friendships, and businesses.

The book, "The Speed of Trust," by Stephen M. R. Covey says everything goes better and faster when trust is present. The opposite is true as well, everything goes more poorly and slower when trust is not present. Without trust, people can't be totally honest with each other because they don't know what the other will do with the information. The time it takes to figure out what is safe to say or do, slows everything down.

Think about the people you have complete trust in; there is comfort. Now think of those folks, who as the saying goes, you "don't trust them as far as you could throw them," (you don't trust them much). To build trust we need to ask for what we want in relationships, then see if the person will give it. We must also be people of our word with kindness; being trustworthy.

May our relationships now and in the future be trustworthy. And may we be trustworthy people.

## **The Music Ministry**

**Tammy Gibson, Interim Music Director**

Psalm 100: 1-2

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come before him with joyful songs.”

Hello, my name is Tammy Gibson and I will be joining the staff as the Interim Music Director. I am an employee with JCPS as a music educator at Lincoln Performing Arts School in downtown Louisville. I have been teaching music for 25 years. I am very excited for the opportunity to join the staff here at First Baptist Church Middletown. I look forward to getting to know you and worshipping with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us as we use music to give to God our thanks and praise. All of us have gifts that God has gifted us and sometimes a simple nudge is all it takes to unwrap the courage and joy of using those gifts to God’s glory. Consider this your nudge to share your gift of music. Whether it’s singing, instrument playing, handbells or perhaps a unique gift that you would share with us, prayerfully, consider using your gift to glorify God.

I look forward to sharing with you in worship as we lift our hearts to God!

## **Young Adults Ministry**

**Rev. Gabe Close, Minister of Young Adults**

**Conversation Cafe:** Join us for Conversation Cafe on February 16. If you would like to get to know people at church better or would like an opportunity for judgment free conversation about real topics, come join us! There will be a light meal at 6:00pm and we will begin at 6:30pm.

**Church Involvement:** I continue to be encouraged with the number of our young adults finding places to get involved in the life of the church. We have young adults serving as deacons, choir members, youth group volunteers, preschool volunteers, and so much more. Thank you to the church for presenting and encouraging these young adults as they serve in various roles!

## **Senior Adult Ministry**

**Lisa Harvey & Justine Rostel**

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

The 2024 Joy Ride schedules are out! Please pick one up and mark your calendars for all the fun day trips coming up. The first trip will be Tuesday, March 12 to Schimpff’s Confectionery and lunch at Geraldine’s Kitchen. Watch for the sign-up sheet or call the church office to make your reservation. The year’s trips are being led by Lisa Harvey and Justine Rostel.



*– Live Longer and Love It!*

Our next LLL meeting is on Tuesday, February 27th. We anticipate another chilly get together, although hopefully not as cold as the January meeting! LLL is a fellowship for senior adults, but anyone is invited to enjoy a spectacular luncheon of chicken salad on a croissant sandwich and creamy rich tomato soup. Bring your favorite board game and /or pair of dice. Winners will be rewarded with something sweet!

## **Wednesday Dinner Re-Start! Christine Kimmel, Director Council Chair**

We’re doing well with enough people signed up to be Chefs along with the occasional catered dinner by “The Goose Eatery & Hangout” for this entire first quarter. We’re still short on setup/cleanup folks. We appreciate those of you who provide cleanup assistance in addition to those who are on the roster. It certainly makes the work go more quickly. You are a real blessing! Thank you!!

## Children's Ministry

Susan Bowles, Minister of Children



It may only be February on the calendar, but to a Preschool and Children's Minister, it is time to prep for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. Hip, Hip, Hooray!! Are you ready? Come on get excited with me, it is going to be ROARSOME! Our dates for VBS are June 9-13, 2024. Dinner will be at 5:30 and VBS will be from 6:00-8:00pm. Ages 3 years to 5th grade. Our theme will be ROAR! Life is Wild, God is good.

Theme Bible verse:

Nahum 1:7, "The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes." This is a wonderful curriculum, and the daily themes are so applicable to all ages of life. I cannot wait for our leaders and boys and girls to experience what God has planned for us. Please begin praying now for our church families who will participate, our leaders, and for the boys and girls outside our walls that might join us. You may not be able to be here during the week of VBS, but YOU can pray beginning now.

VBS will conclude with Family Night on Thursday, June 13. More details to come. Our whole church family is invited to come and see a brief overview of what our children have experienced. If you have an interest in assisting with VBS, let me know.

Blessings for a warm and healthy February 2024.

You are loved,  
Susan



## Youth Ministries

Directors of Student Ministries

Hello Church Family,

The Youth met in our new room for the first Sunday School and U-Connect on January 14th. It's a great space and we have been so blessed with a church family that is willing to donate time, money, and resources to ensure that our youth have a comfortable space to relax, fellowship, and learn about God's love. We are excited for the month of February, as it will be our first joint U-Connect with Buechel Park Baptist Church's Youth Program. We are hosting a Youth Game Night on February 4th from 5-7 pm. Bring yourself and a friend to enjoy the food and fellowship! We will NOT meet for U-Connect on February 11. On February 25 we will have our first Dairy Queen Night of the year; CLT leaders will provide dinner at DQ (including yummy ice cream treats!)

Youth families—please be on the look out for our Q1 newsletter with updates regarding U-Connect dates/times changes to the calendar, and our new Remind App for communication.

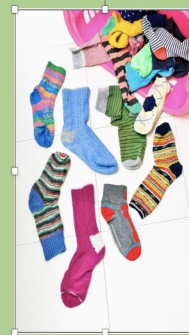
We are blessed with a growing youth group and love and support of our church.

Thank you for all you do, the CLT

Jenny, Emily, Tim and Jaxon

## SOCK AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Sunday,  
February 11<sup>th</sup>



Please bring NEW sock and underwear donations in both kids and adult sizes

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN SOUTH/CENTRAL KY  
BY SCARLETTE JASPER  
WITH OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRIES

# 2024



# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## February

16 Friday, Conversation Café: 6:00, meal; 6:30, Let's Talk!

18 Sunday, Worship in Gospel Music: Dorissa Hobbs and Friends, 11:00

## March

9 Saturday, Churchwide Chili Cookoff and Deacon/Staff Dessert Throwdown, 5:00,  
Fundraising Event for Habitat for Humanity and Extreme Build

15 Friday, Conversation Café: 6:00, meal; 6:30, Let's Talk!

29 Friday, Good Friday Worship: 7:00

31 Sunday, Easter Celebration: 7:00 Sunrise Service, 7:30 Breakfast, 11:00 Worship

## April

13 Saturday, Middletown Market: 9:00-4:00, a new expanded Market with the Middletown  
Chamber of Commerce, Indoor and Outdoor

19 Friday, Churchwide Game Night, 6:00-9:00, Board games and Gaga Ball

## May

31 Friday, Parking Lot Summer Jam and Flavaville Food Truck: 6:00-9:00, Featuring the Atone  
Band with Donna Wilson and Dorissa Hobbs

## June

2 Sunday, Worship in the Park and Annual Picnic: 11:00 Wetherby Park

9-13 Sunday-Thursday, Vacation Bible School

21 Friday, Parking Lot Summer Jam and Flavaville Food Truck: 6:00-9:00, Featuring the  
River City Concert Band

29 Saturday, Middletown Market: 9:00-4:00, a new expanded Market with the Middletown  
Chamber of Commerce, Indoor and Outdoor

30 Sunday, Freedom Sunday in Worship: 11:00

## July

19 Friday, Parking Lot Jam and Flavaville Food Truck: 6:00-9:00, Featuring the  
Gabe Close Band

## August

16 Friday, Parking Lot Jam and Flavaville Food Truck: 6:00-9:00, Featuring Breakroom Microwave

## September

6-7 Friday and Saturday, Middletown Family Fun Festival

15 Sunday, Worship in the Park: 11:00

20-29 Friday-Sunday, Mission Trip to Macedonia

## October

5 Saturday, Middletown Market: 9:00-4:00, a new expanded Market with the Middletown Chamber of Commerce, Indoor and Outdoor

6-27 Missions Month in Worship

13 Miller Coffee Offering for Re-Center

26 Saturday: 10:00-12:00, Pumpkin Patch Pancake Party and Trick-or-Treat

## November

24 Sunday: 11:00, Thanksgiving Celebration

## December

1 Sunday: First Sunday of Advent, "Hope"

8 Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent, "Peace": Holiday Banquet

15 Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent, "Joy"

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

24 Tuesday: 5:00, Christmas Eve Worship

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

11721 Main Street, Middletown, KY 40243

Phone: 502-245-7889; Email: [jcobban@fbcmtown.org](mailto:jcobban@fbcmtown.org)

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

*For more information on these events, email [mrumsey@fbcmtown.org](mailto:mrumsey@fbcmtown.org).*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- February 1: 9:00 AARP Tax Preparations in Celebration Hall; (AARP will be preparing taxes every Monday and Thursday through April 15) 10:00 Ladies Bible Study
- February 3: 10:00 Outreach Council Meeting
- February 4: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service; 5:00—7:00 Youth Game Night in Celebration Hall
- February 5: 9:00 am AARP Tax Preparations February 7: 5:30 Dinner; 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study, Choir Rehearsal
- February 8: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study
- February 11: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service, 5:00 U-Connect
- February 14: **Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday**, 5:30 Dinner; 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study, Choir Rehearsal
- February 15: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study
- February 16: 6:00 Conversation Café
- February 18: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Dorissa Hobbs Worship Concert; 5:00 U-Connect
- February 19: 7:00 Property Committee Meeting
- February 21: 5:30 Dinner; 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study, Choir Rehearsal
- February 22: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study
- February 25: 9:45 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service with The Lord's Supper, 5:00 U-Connect
- February 27: 12:00 LLL
- February 28: 5:30 Dinner; 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study, Choir Rehearsal; 7:45 Deacons' Meeting
- February 29: Leap Day, 10:00 Ladies Bible Study

### **Coming in March .....**

- March 3: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service; 5:00 U-Connect
- March 6: 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study and Choir Rehearsal
- March 9: 5:00 Missions Council Fundraiser Chili Cook Off and Deacon & Staff Dessert Throwdown
- March 10: Daylight Savings Start; 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service; 5:00 U-Connect
- March 12: Joy Ride
- March 13: 5:30 Dinner; 6:30 Children's Activities, Adult Bible Study and Choir Rehearsal
- March 15: 6:00 Conversation Café
- March 17: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service with The Lord's Supper; 5:00 U-Connect
- March 18: 7:00 Trustee Committee Meeting



**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  
6:30 p.m. Children's Activities  
Adult, Children's Missions  
study; Adult Choir.

**Office Hours:**

**M-Th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Office Phone: 245-7889  
www.fbcmtown.org**



**Future Without Walls  
Sanctuary and  
Building Renovation**

**Balance to-date less expenses:  
\$107,400**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

First Baptist Church will make every effort to worship on Sunday mornings. In the case of inclement weather, the most important thing is to be safe. Only extreme conditions will cause a cancellation. Should this become necessary, our policy will be as follows:

A decision will be made by 8 a.m. if worship is cancelled.

If it is determined that the church will need to close, the information will be available on

local TV stations:

WAVE 3, WHAS 11, WLKY 32 and WDRB 41.

Note: Sometimes that information is delayed, due to the large number of churches calling in to report their closings.

We will also post the cancellation on FBC's Facebook page and an email will be sent.

Cancellation of Wednesday night activities will be determined that day and an email will be sent with an update of the status.

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas flower you sent by way of Gerald Jones family. We had a nice visit. God bless all of you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Pauline Tucker*