

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WAYNESBURG

2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

## REV. DR. DAVID BESS

It was my honor and privilege to serve as the senior pastor for the First Baptist Church of Waynesburg during 2024. It was a year of growing in relationships and becoming much more acquainted with my church family during my first full year of leadership.

During the year I placed a strong emphasis on Biblical preaching and teaching. I truly believe the church benefits enormously when God's word is faithfully proclaimed and taught. My sermon planning spanned the entire Bible, with more attention being given to the Old Testament since its nearly 2/3 of the total Scriptures. At the beginning of the year, I taught a series from the book, "How To Eat Your Bible." The focus was on adopting the right approach to increase one's desire for Bible study. In the spring I taught a second series, "Bitesize Theology." As the title implies, it offered a concise, basic overview of sound Biblical theology. In the fall I taught a 13-week series, "Fundamentals of the Faith." This study was an in-depth survey of primary Biblical doctrines that will benefit any disciple of Christ. For each series, there were multiple classes offered to accommodate the busy schedule of attendees. The greatest reward for me as a pastor was seeing church members grow, with the Holy Spirit enabling them to grasp Biblical truths in a new, deeper manner.

Leadership and leadership development was a considerable portion of my pastoral ministry in 2024. I worked closely with the church moderator, the church staff, and various boards and committees. I have no desire to micro-manage, but I do believe it's beneficial to interact regularly with the many leaders of the congregation. I hope to be even more a part of the board and committee meetings in the coming year. Considerable relationship building occurs in these meetings. I also served as a mentor for Cody Andrews as he began his seminary training. I participated in a rural pastors' cohort organized by Grove City College. All the participants are young than me, and a few are fellow pastors from Waynesburg. We meet approximately once a quarter and will continue to do so in 2025. I also attended a two-day theological conference at the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in Pittsburgh with three year men of the church. I hope we can do more of this kind of continuing education in 2025. Regardless of the way it occurs, being a part of the spiritual development of godly male leaders is a great joy.

Missions has been a priority for my pastoral ministry over the years and it continues to be so. Since beginning my pastorate at Waynesburg, my focus has been on local missions. The Way provides a unique, exciting means to get involved with the city and surrounding county in doing the work of Jesus. I meet monthly with the Greene County pastors and church leaders and occasionally get together with them one-on-one to build relationships. In April 2024 I attended the “Life of Christ” training offered annually by Urban Impact. The Way has used this approach as a pattern for their own local outreach plans. This training will enable me to be even more supportive of what God is doing through The Way.

Regarding denominational involvement, Jeannie and I represented FBC Waynesburg at the ABCOPAD biennial meeting in Altoona. I also delivered the sermon for the annual meeting of the Ten Mile Association. I do my best to remain informed on the latest leadership and theological developments concerning the ABC, USA. All mainline denominations have been severely strained and/or severed over the LGBTQ+ issue. Presently the American Baptist denomination is polarized. Time will tell how this matter unfolds and the impact it will have on Biblically based congregations such as FBC Waynesburg.

After over a year and a half of pastoring here, I still feel blessed and honored to be a part of this special congregation. I’ve enjoyed building and deepening relationships as the Lord moves among us. I’m eager to see what God has in store for 2025.

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineer over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. - 1 Peter 5:2-3*

In Christian Love,  
Pastor David



# CHURCH OFFICIARY 2025

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bess	304-542-6838
Director of Children and Young Families	Stephanie Knisely	412-779-6838
Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Technology	Mandi Restanio	724-331-7658
Administrative Assistant	Vicky Devore	724-225-7421
Organist	Nelson Fox	724-986-4937
Choir Director	Jacob Restanio	724-884-5876
Kristal Bell Choir Director	Linda Rush	724-852-4473
Maintenance Person	Doug Held	724-883-2000
Custodian	Don Lemley	724-802-5732
Moderator	Garrett Huffman	724-998-2207
Vice-Moderator	Jonathan Johnson	724-350-5390
Church Clerk	Vicky Devore	724-225-7421
Stewardship Secretary	Marcia Bartlett	304-662-6764
Treasurer	Lauren McCollum	724-833-3336
Sunday School Superintendent	Cathy Loughner	724-852-3092
Head Usher	Richard Raymont	724-852-4473
Parish Nurse	Robin Hamilton	724-710-4383

## Church Council

Garrett Huffman, Moderator; Jonathan Johnson, Vice-Moderator; Vicky Devore, Secretary; Stephanie Knisely, Mandi Restanio, Marcia Bartlett, Lauren McCollum, Cathy Held, Rachel Fox, Linda Rush, Gina Mankey, Rich Raymont, Gene Falvo, Missy Sargent, Sarah Brandstetter, Betsy Hawfield, Cody Rush, Matt Brandstetter, Rev. Dr. David Bess

### Deacon Board

<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Chris Lash	Glen Farrier	Mike Butler
Cathy Held, Chn	MaChal Forbes	Wayne Knisely
Rachel Fox, Sec	Sally Johnson	.Peter Rameas, V. Chn.

Amanda Tustin (flower); Rick Raymont (head usher):Mike Butler (aux); Joanne Todd (aux)

### Education Board

<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Peggy Butler	Sarah Brandstetter	Kelcee Rupert
Katie Schloemer, V. Chn.	Missy Sargent, V.-Chn.	
Laura Huffman	Betsy Hawfield, Sec.	

**Mission Board**

**2025**

Dawn Mankey  
Gina Mankey, Sec.  
Bylllye Miller

**2026**

Nancy Fox  
Jeannie Bess, V-Chn  
Linda Rush, Chn.  
Susan Gregorich

**2027**

Debbie Closser

**Trustee Board**

**2025**

Gene Falvo, Sec.  
Wade Cowell  
John McNay

**2026**

Ed Gaskill  
Bryan Loughner, V-Chn  
Mike Simms

**2027**

Rich Raymont, Chn.  
Ron Fox  
Randy George

**Long Range Planning**

**2025**

Glen Farrier  
Cathy Loughner

**2026**

Tim Mankey  
Cody Rush  
Matt Brandstetter

**2027**

Jonathan Johnson  
Stephanie Knisely

Garrett Huffman, Moderator; Rev. Dr. David Bess, Pastor; Lauren McCollum, Treasurer

**Congregational Life Committee**

**2025**

Mike Butler

**2026**

Carol Mankey

**2027**

Linda Rush

**Stewardship and Nominating Committee**

**2025**

Tammie Johnson

**2026**

Dale Gaskill

**2027**

Sally Johnson

**Personnel Committee**

**2025**

Cathy Held  
Mandie Auge

**2026**

Erin Hall

**2027**

Vice Moderator - Jonathan Johnson

**Pastoral Relations**

Cody Andrews

Mark Fox

Dawn Mankey

MaChal Forbes

Roland Daniels

**Technology Committee**

Cody Rush, Chn.

Jason Forbes, V-Chn.

Jacob Restanio, Sec.

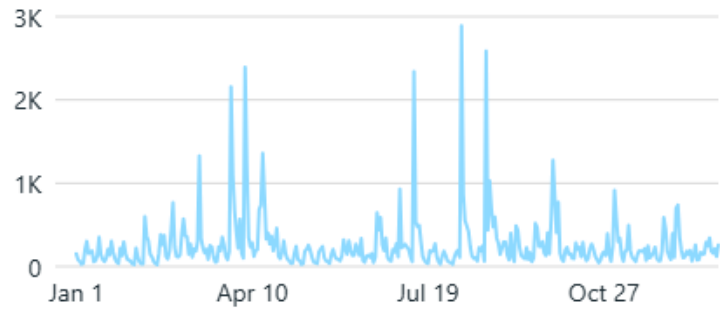
Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Technology - Mandi Restanio

# facebook

## OUR ONLINE IMPACT

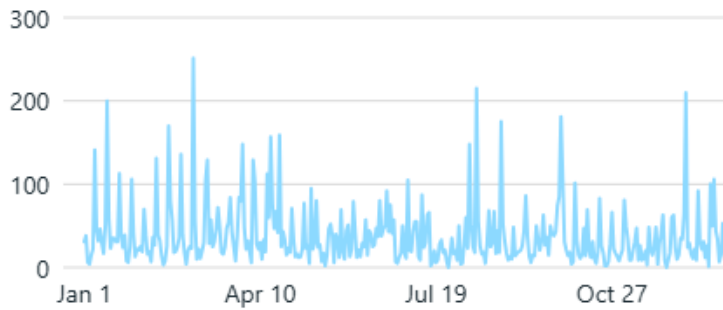
Reach ⓘ

20.5K ↑ 5%



Visits ⓘ

14K ↓ 12.4%



Views

81.6K ↓

63% less than Dec 31, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

Watch time (hours)

1.9K ↓

61% less than Dec 31, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

Subscribers

+143 ↓

56% less than Dec 31, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

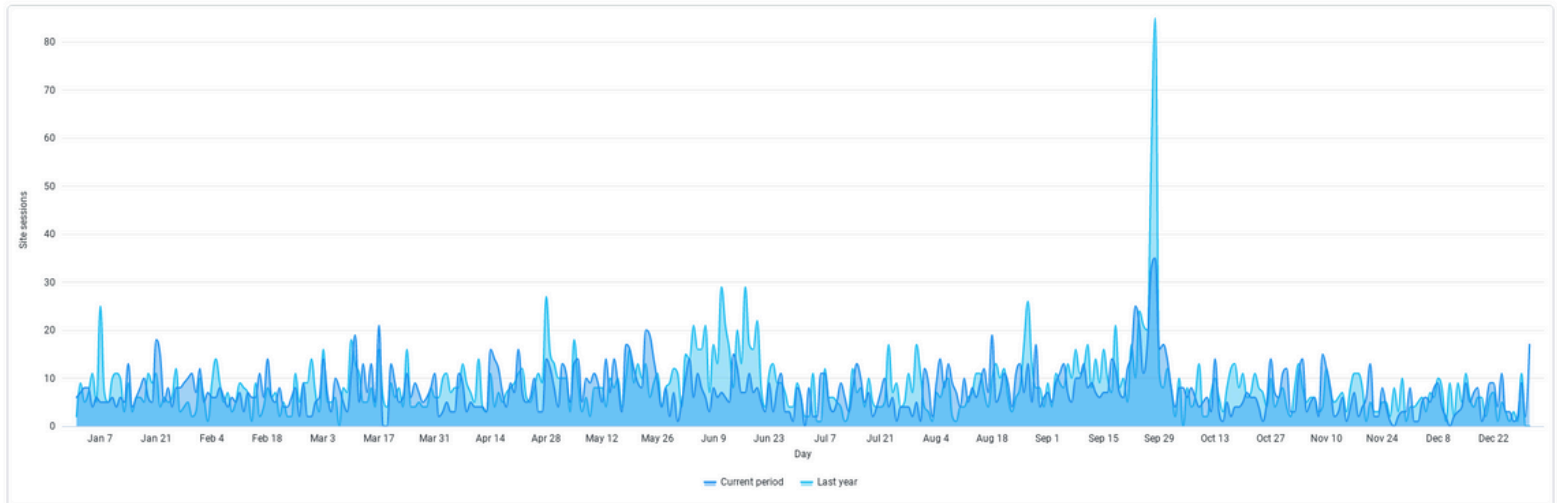


# WEBSITE

# OUR ONLINE IMPACT

## Traffic Over Time

Select a time period is previous year Compare to is Last year Group by is Day Select a measure is Site sessions Exclude bots is Yes



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# OUR PHYSICAL PRESENCE



Average Church Attendance - 150

Average Sunday School Attendance - 55



# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ANNUAL REPORT

## ILLUMINATE

### FBC YOUTH MINISTRY 6TH - 12TH GRADE

Our Youth Group, "Illuminate", meets every Sunday evening with the exception of special events and holidays. In 2024, we had been working the curriculum from DYM "Coleader". The goal for the program is to ask the tough questions that accompany having an authentic faith of your own. We are a relationship-based ministry. 6th-12th grade meets together for a game or activity and the lesson, then splits into 4 small groups: middle school girls, high school girls, middle school boys, and high school boys. Every small group has an adult leader from our congregation as well as a college leader from Waynesburg University that encourages and walks alongside the student through their time at our church and beyond.



*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



# ILLUMINATE

## FBC YOUTH MINISTRY 6TH - 12TH GRADE

### Events:

- Kickoff party
- Summer “Messtival”
- Fall Retreat
- Escape Room
- Christmas Party
- Summer Small Groups

### Service:

Our students spent a week-long mission trip in Milton, PA in July of 2024. They served at sites in the local area, painting, repairing, and building to better the lives of those in the community. They also participated in camp activities and gathered for worship nightly.

I’d like to express my gratitude to everyone in this church family for their support and investment in the next generation. Programs like this would not be possible without the dedication of the congregation.  
From our entire program - thank you!

Blessings,  
Mandi Restanio  
Director of Youth, Young Adult and Technology

# CUP OF GRACE COFFEEHOUSE

Cup of Grace Coffeehouse is held at the church weekly on Wednesday while the University is in session. The mission is to provide a time for congregation and fellowship between the college and church community. Free coffee and snacks were provided as well as an opportunity for live music. Cup of Grace Coffeehouse served an average of 40-50 college students and community members each week in 2024.



Hosted by First Baptist Church  
in cooperation with  
Waynesburg University Bonner Scholars

# Children's Ministry

Our Children's program is continuing to grow and flourish before our eyes. Our children are being given the opportunity to learn and grow their relationship with God during our many activities and classes. All of our children and youth are encouraged to attend Sunday school classes taught by Sheryl Falvo, Dawn Mankey, and Matt & Sarah Brandstetter. During church services we have three classes for children to attend, Nursery (N-4), Mini-Church (4yr-2nd grade), and Jr Church (3rd-5th grade). Our elementary children are still excited to attend Ignite Thursdays after school. This year we were very fortunate to have our children participate in the Christmas Contata and perform their own instrumental preformance. And our newest project in the project is the "Tween" youth group Spark. 2025 is looking to be an exciting year.



# Family Ministry



## Some Highlights of 2024

WINTER ESCAPE - TUBING- BOWLING - EGG DROP - CROSS WALK - PRAYER EXPERIENCE - CHURCH PICNIC - VBS - WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - IF GATHERING - PUMPKIN PALOOZA - FROSTY FESTIVITIES - CHRISTMAS PARADE - LIVE NATIVITY - SOFTBALL - CHILI COOK OFF - SOCCER TEAM SPONSORSHIP - TRUNK OR TREAT AT WCES - WAY TO READING



Much love and blessings ,  
Stephanie Knisely  
Director of Children and Family Ministries

# Choir



2024 Christmas Cantata

The choir meets weekly on Thursday @ 7:00 PM.  
Special choirs meet for Christmas and Easter.  
Anyone is welcome to join!

# NOTABLE FINANCE POINTS FOR 2024



## Financial Ministry

### Royalty's Role in the Church Missions

--2024 Royalty Income continued to bless the Church with \$536,285. The Trustees have invested funds that have added earnings to the church portfolio. The Operating Reserve and Building & Capital Asset Funds were approved by the Trustees to donate further funds to construction of The Way building. From the allocation of Royalties, \$117,795 was added to the Building & Capital Asset Fund for the Long Range Planning Committee, \$58,898 was added to the Ministry Opportunity Fund for Church Council and \$19,633 to the Mission Fund for the Mission Board.

### Royalty's Role in the Church Missions

-The Church Members voted during the summer business meeting to put aside the earnings from the Perpetual Fund of \$2,758.40 for the purchase of an ice machine for the Church kitchen and the same for the use for podcasts intended for local and extended areas in order to provide another avenue to expand The Kingdom. These funds were placed in the Special Project Fund.

### Fellowship Fund

The Deacon Board has been very busy this year. Generous donors provided \$8,009 to the Fellowship Fund which provided emergency funds to community and church members needing food, shelter, medical and other essentials as well as food to fill up the outside Food Pantry and the wonderful monthly mission; Room at the Table.

# 2024 Giving

## Operating Fund

TOTAL OPERATING FUND GIVING : **\$339,098**

## Designated Giving

Mission Fund \$34,477

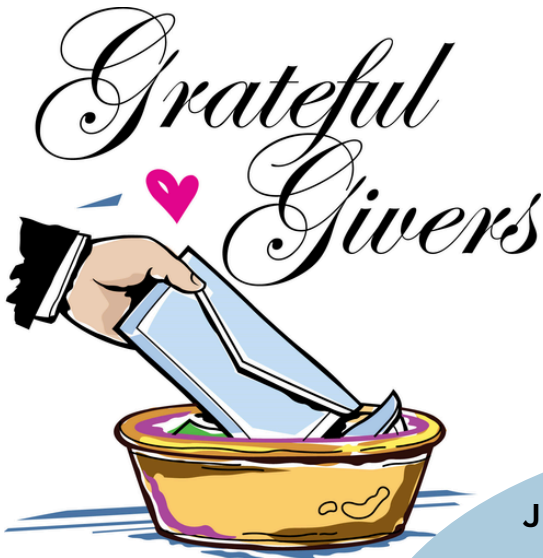
Memorial Fund \$525

The Way Campaign \$42,005

Youth Ministry Fund \$2,146

Fellowship Fund \$8,173

**Total Giving: \$426,424**



FUN FACT:  
**86 FAMILIES**  
DONATED TO  
FIRST BAPTIST  
IN 2024

### January 1, 2025 FUND BALANCE Highlights

Church Operating Fund \$15,333.67

The Way Campaign \$237,289.00

Operating Reserve Fund \$600,045

Building & Capital Asset Reserve Fund \$109,067

Ministry Opportunity Fund \$140,923

Mission Fund \$25,160

Fellowship Fund \$8,009



# Investments



## Reserve Funds:

**\$850,035**

God has graced First Baptist with the fruit of prior generous gifts which will maintain a reserve to meet budgetary needs, building and equipment repairs, long range planning and extended ministry opportunities.

**Royalty Income 2024: \$536,285**

**2024 Unrealized Gain: \$5,664**

**2024 Investment Earnings: \$22,194**

## Restricted/Non-Restricted Funds:

**\$754,434**

Bequests have been such a blessing to First Baptist. The investing of these funds is evidence of good stewardship in the long range. The earnings help maintain our budget. Other restricted funds are for specific purposes and involve the members of the church in monetary donation projects.

**2024 Investment Earnings: \$23,580**

**2024 Unrealized Gain: \$40,401**

# 2025 Budget

## Summary by Account Group

Account Group	Income	Expense
Contributions and Offerings	\$428,119	-
Other Income	\$ 56,500	-
Investment Earnings	\$ 20,050	-
Personnel Expenses	-	\$273,113
Education Board Expenses	-	\$ 32,650
Deacon Board Expenses	-	\$ 10,500
Mission Board Expenses	-	\$ 34,000
Trustee Board Expenses	-	\$159,448
	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$509,711</b>	<b>\$509,711</b>

## FUND DESIGNATIONS

- 3004.01 Operating Fund - May be expended as authorized by the Church Council for the Operational funds to maintain church programs and day to day functions generally according to the Church Budget. Maintained in a checking account at Community Bank.
- 3001 Fellowship Fund - May be used as authorized by the Fellowship Committee, consisting of the Pastor (or in his absence, the Associate Pastor) and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Diaconate Board, for persons/groups with special financial needs.
- 3003 Christian Sandbox Fund - May be expended by the Pre-School Committee as authorized by the Education Board for the Church's Christian pre-school.
- 3103 Lucy M. Bosworth Memorial Fund - The principal (\$9,000) is restricted. The earnings may be used as authorized by the Trustee Board for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church.
- 3015 Cooper Johnson Memorial Fund - To be used for nursery needs.
- 3200 Laura Walsh Gordon Memorial Fund - The principal (\$250,000) is restricted. The interest may be used as authorized by the Trustee Board for general Church purposes. Quarterly, \$1,667 of the investment earnings is being paid into the Operating Fund for 2025.
- 3105 Belle M. Huffman and Alberta M. Work Memorial Fund - The principal (\$22,000) is restricted. The interest is to be used for the maintenance of the Huffman family graves in Oakmont Cemetery, for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church building. or for any other purpose as authorized by the Trustee Board.
- 3102 G. Edward Huffman Memorial Fund - The principal (\$5,000) is restricted. The interest may be used as authorized by the Trustee Board for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church.
- 3104 Timothy and Alta H. Kelley Memorial Fund - The principal (\$20,400) is restricted. The interest is to be used for the upkeep of the Hampson and Kelley family graves in Rosemont Cemetery, and for general Church purposes.
- 3100 Alexander C. Pethel Memorial Fund - The principal (\$5,000) is restricted. The interest to be used for the maintenance of Church properties.
- 3101 Walter A. Stewart Memorial Fund - The principal (\$5,000) is restricted. The interest is to be used for the maintenance of Church properties.
- 3201 Huffman Mausoleum Fund - To be used as authorized by the Trustee Board for the maintenance of the John J. Huffman mausoleum in Oakmont Cemetery.
- 3032 Sports Activity Fund - Principal plus interest to be spent on supporting First Baptist Church's sports activities.

3202 Men's Retreat Kenneth and Sherrie Stilwell Scholarship Fund - May be expended as authorized by the First Baptist Men for first-time attendees to the annual retreat of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware, after the first \$20 has been paid for each man or boy.

3206 Christian Education Fund - May be expended as authorized by the Pastoral Relations Committee for grants, up to a maximum of \$1,000 a year and \$3,000 total per student, to Church members pursuing accredited graduate-level education in preparation for the church-related professional ministry.

3205 Youth Ministries Fund - May be expended as authorized by the Education Board for projects and programs to enhance Church youth ministries' growth and effectiveness.

3004.01 Operating Reserve Fund -is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses. Operating Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. It is the intention of FBC for the Operating Reserves to be used and replenished within a reasonably short period of time.

3004.02 Building & Capital Asset Reserve Fund is intended to provide a ready source of funds for repair or acquisition of buildings, furniture, fixtures, and equipment necessary for the effective operation of FBC and its programs. The target amount of the Building & Capital Asset Reserve will be determined by the Long- Range Planning Board based upon input from its Capital planning and input from each Board and shall be approved by Church Council.

3004.03 Ministry Opportunity Reserve Fund is intended to provide funds to meet special targets of opportunity or need that further the mission of FBC which may or may not have specific expectation of incremental or long-term increased income. The Ministry Opportunity Reserve is also intended as a source of internal funds for organizational capacity building such as staff development or investment in infrastructure that will build long-term ministry programs. The target amount of the Ministry Opportunity Reserve will be determined by Church Council.

- 3080 Perpetual Fund - The interest shall be expended as authorized by the Church Council according to the Perpetual Fund Interest Budget, with at least 25% to be used outside Greene County. No item may appear in the Fund interest budget for more than two consecutive years. The principal may be expended by vote of the Church, provided the purpose of the expenditures has been announced from the pulpit on the two successive Sundays immediately preceding the business meeting. Investment portfolio with Janney Montgomery Scott. Interest is disbursed into the checking account and accounted in the 3085 Spendable Fund Balance account.
- 3033 Technology Fund - Principal plus income to be spent on technology to upgrade audio-video in the sanctuary. Fund is administered by the Trustee Board.
- 3020 Emergency Catastrophic Fund - May be used as authorized by the Fellowship Committee, consisting of the Pastor and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Diaconate Board, for people/groups with large catastrophic losses.
- 208 The Estate of Nancy Davis Fund - For Christian education or home missions.
- 3050 The Way Fund - Is the capital campaign endeavors to be used for promotion of the campaign and construction expenses of the project. Funds maintained in a Savings account at Community Bank.
- 3035 Fixed Asset Fund- Is the purchase price of the parsonage less the mortgage as well as the purchase price of The Way.
- 3004.02 Building Fund - May be used as authorized by the Trustee Board for capital projects approved by the Church to upgrade the Church building and grounds.
- 3300 Home Mission Fund - The related asset is invested at Janney Montgomery Scott. A minimum of \$50,000 principal is to be retained. Income shall only be used for home missions, which may be defined as Christian mission causes outside of the local Church and within the United States. The income eventually will be paid into the Missions account from which at least 75% of the monies usually is distributed to home missions.
- 3503 Special Project Fund - This fund was set up to handle monies that are designated for projects within the church operations. This includes but not limited to; perpetual spendable project amounts that have been voted on but have not been completed, projects that run annually and raise funds that are not all spent in the current year.



**The First Baptist Church**  
303 West High Street - Waynesburg, PA 15370  
Phone (724) 627-6444; Fax (724) 627-6244  
E-Mail - [office@fbcwaynesburg.org](mailto:office@fbcwaynesburg.org)  
Website - [fbcwaynesburg.org](http://fbcwaynesburg.org)

**Report of  
Auditing Committee**

**This is to certify that we have examined the financial records of the accounts of the Treasurer, Lauren McCollum, for 2024, and it is our opinion that receipts and disbursements have been properly recorded and that the receipts, disbursements, and balanced duly check.**

**The Auditing Committee**

Mary Seize  
Dale Gaskill  
Christy

Date 1.15.2025

# Church Council

Each year, Church Council consists of the Moderator; Vice-Moderator; Clerk; Stewardship Secretary; Treasurer; the chairpersons and secretaries of the Deacon, Education, Long Range Planning, Mission, and Trustee boards, with the vice-chairpersons of these five boards serving as members with voting privileges when either of their regular two representatives are not present; the chairperson of the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Treasurer, and Stewardship Secretary shall be ex-officio members. The Church Council shall have a direct relationship to all of the boards, committees and organizations represented by its membership.

As Council serves as the facilitator of communication among the boards and committees, much of its work is being reported by the respective board or committee and will not be duplicated therein.

The focus of Council is providing meaningful programs, opportunities and outreach to address the spiritual growth of our church family and community. However, we also address our administrative and governance infrastructure. We continue to follow the policies implemented and added a Van Policy.

<b>Total Membership 2024</b>		<b>497</b>
<b>Received in 2024</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>By Baptism</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>By Experience</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Dismissed in 2024</b>		
<b>Death</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Transfer</b>		
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>506</b>
<b>Residents</b>	<b>467</b>	
<b>Non-Residents</b>	<b>39</b>	

**Respectfully submitted,  
Vicky Devore, Secretary**

# Deacon Board

Board Members: Cathy Held, chairperson; Time Mankey, Vice-Chairperson, Rachel Fox, Secretary, Joanne Todd, Corresponding Secretary, Mike Butler, Sheryl Falvo, Glen Farrier, MaChal Forbes, Ruth Huffman, Chris Lash, Tonya Steinmiller, Amanda Tustin

Board Focus: The Board of Deacons is responsible for all things related to the Worship Service, the administration of the Fellowship Fund and the general concerns of the congregation that relate to worship.

Following are the accomplishments of the Deacon Board during the year of 2024:

- Reorganization of the board took place at the December 2024 meeting. Cathy Held, Chair; Wayne Knisely, Vice Chair; Rachel Fox, Secretary; Joanne Todd, Corresponding Secretary.
- Welcoming new members Wayne Knisely and Pete Rameas. Committee appointments will be discussed at the January/February meeting.
- Preparation and serving Communion each month and at other services if requested. This includes the Maundy Thursday Service.
- Assisted in the Good Friday evening service. We assisted with various activities including working with the children, praying with each individual and helping to guide.
- The new church directory was completed and distributed. Mike Butler headed the work and completion.
- Assist in all baptisms and welcoming new members.
- Provide Bibles and Devotionals to all adults and youth joining the church.
- Provide Grave Site Maintenance for Memorial Committee. Sheryl Falvo and David Baker have been diligent in this ministry.

- Amanda Tustin is coordinating all funeral dinners with assistance from members who are willing to donate food and time
- Ruth Huffman has scheduled our Sunday morning greeters and monitors the prayer requests to the church website.
- Nancy Fox continues to distribute prayer requests to those on the prayer chain.
- Stephanie Knisely continues to train and schedule acolytes for services.
- Our committee appointments were diligent in their various activities.

Our Board of Deacons were faithful and worked diligently under the leadership of Cathy Held, Tim Mankey and Pastor Bess, to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our Church Family with God's guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fox, Secretary



# Education Board

The Education Board continued to provide programs and activities for children, youth, young adults, and families of the church. The members were committed and dedicated to the service of providing faith building activities and events to the church including outreach opportunities.

The First Baptist Church family had opportunities to participate in the following events during the year:

- Winter Escape Chili Cook-off
- Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Airport
- The Way to Reading (reading partners at WCES)
- Sunday School classes for children, youth, young adults and adults
- 5-Day Vacation Bible School-Wild Live! Theme
- Women's Devotional Study
- Mystery Dinner Theatre Production
- Church Softball League
- Ignite children's fellowship program
- Camp Carmel summer youth camp
- Church family pool night at Waynesburg Aquatic Center
- Family Bowling at the Meadows
- Touch-A-Truck
- Women's Self Defense Class
- Children's Choir Events
- Bell Choir
- Community Christmas Program
- Pumpkin Palooza
- Christmas Parade
- Live Nativity Community
- Frosty Festivities

- Youth Retreat
- Youth Kennywood Trip
- Cup of Grace Coffee House (during school year at Wbg Univ)
- Weekly Youth Girls Summer Bible Study at RGB
- Weekly Youth Boys Summer Bible Study at RGB
- Youth “Messtival” event
- Weekly Youth gatherings “Illuminate”
- Youth Christmas Party
- Youth Escape Room
- Youth Praise Team

The preschool had a successful year. We hired a new preschool teacher for the half-day program. The number of students have remained constant and both programs have been successful financially.

The Education Board recognized Mothers’ Day, Fathers’ Day, our 2024 graduates, organized an outdoor worship service and church picnic at the Lions Club Park and presented Bibles to students. The Education Board was faithful and continued to offer fun and meaningful educational opportunities to the members of First Baptist Church.

We have been very blessed with the faithful leadership to oversee Children and Families and Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Jennifer Lash and Mandi Restanio started the year off for us. When Jennifer announced her resignation, we were blessed to have Stephanie Knisely fill the role. It is always exciting to see the involvement of so many members of our congregation, because without them, these events would not be possible.

We are looking forward to another exciting, fun and educational year for 2025!!

Thanks for all you do!

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Hawfield, secretary

# Mission Board

The Mission Board was very busy trying to help as much as we can to care for those in need. We continue to supported Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Free Care Fund, St. Jude's Hospital, and the Wounded Warriors, and others in need.

We again filled Easter baskets for our shut-ins and put candy, cookies, and a card in the basket. At Christmas we made cookie plates for our shut-ins.

Gina Mankey went with Hands and Feet ministry to Guatemala in May and the Mission Board provided money for the trip.

The Choir was invited to New York and sing at Carnegie Hall. We helped them with the funds required for this trip.

We had a Grab and Go luncheon. Purchased Salvation tracts for the community Easter Egg Hunt.

Planning on donating money for "The Way" Community Center. Will be donating \$500 from the Mission Budget to help with utilities at "The Way."

Money was sent to the Ukraine.

We had an Angel tree for children, and also for residents at the Respicenter. We did bell ringing for the Salvation Army and packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicky Devore, Sec.



# Trustee Board

Board Members: Mark Fox, Cody Rush, Ed Gaskill, Dave Fox, Gene Falvo, John McNay, Wade Cowell, Mike Simms, Bryan Loughner

The Trustee Board met every month. The accomplishments of the Board for 2024 are as follows:

- 1, Managed investments, insurance, contracts and leases, and maintained the properties of the church.
2. Replaced the heating unit and couch in Pastor's study.
- 3 Purchased a CD at First Federal.
- 4.Approved the replacement of the steps between the parking lots.
5. Approved power washing of church building, windows and side walks by SF Pressure washing.
6. Purchased key fobs for front door.
7. Front porch roof repaired.
8. The Trustee and the Long-Range Planning Board approved the use of up to \$190,000 from the Building and Capital Reserve Fund for The Way.
9. The Trustees also approved \$175,000 to be taken from the Reserve Fund and \$195,000 from EQT Lease up front money to be used for The Way.
10. Voted to recommend to the Church congregation to sell the parsonage.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gene Falvo, Secretary

# Long Range Planning

As described in the Church Constitution, we, as a group, are tasked to be the forward thinkers for the future of First Baptist. In the past, this board has been able to produce multiple milestones for First Baptist such as the purchase of the building for The Way and Church Unique. We work closely with the various boards and committees inside of First Baptist, as well as seeking congregational input, to be able to set goals and follow through with our objectives.

We are planning the renovation of Fellowship Hall. The plans are coming along.

We want to make sure that any group inside of FBC is not lacking for items they need to effectively educate and further the congregation's walk with God.

We hope to always make sure the audio and visual technology is up to date. On online presence is increasing with the use of Facebook and YouTube and the presentation needs to be easy to navigate.

In the future we would like signage that is easily seen to help find the Sunday School class you would like to attend and to assist children finding their age appropriate class.

While keeping God centered and praised during our continued future planning and with your prayer support, we want First Baptist to not only remain relevant but to thrive for current and future members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cody Rush, Sec.

# Flower Committee

The Flower Committee strives to have flowers placed in the sanctuary every Sunday. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. We are thankful to our friends and members who generously donate flowers in memory/honor of loved ones.

Each season the front sanctuary flowers are changed. We also decorate flowers for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Lilies and tulips are placed in the sanctuary for Easter, poinsettias for Christmas and on Thanksgiving we give thanks to God's grace in our lives.

The Flower Committee



# Memorial Committee

There were three members called home during 2024. They each were remembered with a Bible with rosebuds and greenery around it.

<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
July 8, 1950	Barbara Shultz	May 1, 2024
June 13, 1932	Loreen Dukate	April 10, 2024
May 29, 1939	Jacob (Jake) Mankey	October 7, 2024

Local grave sites of those who have legacies with requirements that certain family graves should be cared for were decorated. At the present time, there are twelve (12) grave sites being tended in four (4) cemeteries: Bethel in Pine Bank, Rosemont in Rogersville, Greene Mount and Oakmont in Waynesburg.

The Memorial Committee



# Adult Sunday School

## Fellowship Class Meets in the Fellowship Hall

It's been another enjoyable year of studying God's word. The Christ Centered Exposition series has been helpful in developing our knowledge of Christ throughout the Bible. In 2024, we studied the need for Christ in the Old Testament book of Joshua, the layout of the kingdom of Israel, its history, territory, the character of its people, the character of God and God's promises at that time. In many ways the Israelites then are not much different than us today. As Christians today, we need a changed heart and atonement for our sins. Any attempt to save ourselves are fleeting and the book of Joshua points to the need for something greater. We need Him. That need of God's saving grace was as true then as it is today. Christ and His Holy Spirit are the answer!

Studying God's word is one of the most important ways for you to grow as a Christian. We are continuing our studies with a Christ Centered focus in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. We hope to see you there:

In Christ,  
Garrett Huffman



# Adult Sunday School

## Circle of Friends and the Lohr Class Meets in room off kitchen

We meet in the Lohr Classroom. Walter Killingsworth is the teacher.

We use the David C. Cook curriculum.

We begin our class with announcements and prayer. We uphold each other in prayer. We participate in church activities, including decorating for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

We are committed to learning more about God and to doing His will to follow Him. If you are looking for an adult Sunday School Class please join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bartlett

# Adult Sunday School

## Seekers Sunday School Class Meets in “The Well”

The Seekers Sunday School Class meets each Sunday in “The Well” at 9:00 a.m. We enjoy a lively discussion and share our faith and prayer concerns. Most of the past year has been a journey through the Book of Acts, an exposition exalting Jesus as we traced the growth of the Church by David Platt, Daniel Akin and Tony Merida. Everyone was delighted to learn new perspectives on the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Apostles and God’s plan for His Church. We also had an Advent devotional, “Loves Pure Light” by Kyle Leyendecker, which helped us to prepare for the birth of our Savior.

We offer love and support for each other, and pray for the pastor, our church, and the community. We welcome new people to join us as we are now studying The Sermon on the Mount by the same authors of the Book of Acts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Mankey, Teacher



**Wow! What a year it has been for the First Baptist Church and The Way Community Center of Greene County. In 2024, we started construction and are currently moving onto phases 2-3. The building has been remarkably well received by the community and many people see the building as a symbol of excitement and hope. The Way would not have been possible without God’s provision and the willingness of First Baptist Church to step out in faith. We are excited for what God has planned for the building and our community. Dawn Mankey has been hired as the Volunteer and Programming Coordinator, we all know her passion for Christ and her commitment to serving others. The Way Board voted unanimously to hire her, the resounding response was that “we couldn’t think of a better person for this job.” We are so blessed to have Dawn! The Way Capital Campaign raised 3.1 million dollars through 2024 and then we were provided through two grants facilitated by Senator Camera Bartolotta for an additional \$807,000. The NAP grant was supported by local businesses as well to the amount of \$307,000. Our community has been very supportive to this mission. Our board currently is comprised of Jonathan Johnson, Chairperson; Jay Buckhalter, Vice-Chairperson; Sue Peirce, Treasurer/Administrator; Josh Sumpter, Secretary; Mark Fox, Cathy Loughner, David Bess, Ben McCracken, Butch Cassidy, Jared Edgreen, Brian Miller.**

**It truly is through faith that this mission is possible, we continue to place our efforts at God's feet in humble adoration.**

**Blessings,**

**Jonathan Johnson, Chairperson,  
The Way Community Center  
of Greene County**