



First Baptist Church

JEFFERSON CITY TENNESSEE

Breaking down barriers to proclaim the love of Christ.

# THE MESSENGER

## FEBRUARY 2025

### FROM MAJOR TREADWAY

Throughout the Bible, we find many stories of calling. God's call comes in many shapes and forms – visions, dreams, a burning bush, a big fish, a still small voice, a burst of light, a voice from heaven, and others. God calls people to go, to do, to be, to birth, to build, to invite, to love, to share. The people God calls throughout the Bible are not of uniform age, gender, wealth, education, race, class, nationality, political party, or theological leaning. The width and breadth of God's call and God's called has the capacity to leave us wondering how we will know when we hear God's call.



As we look to the future of our congregation and engage in the work of discerning to what God is calling us, we will be using Dawnings curriculum, produced by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, to help us as we listen. This process is designed to engage the congregation as a whole and functions best when more people from the congregation participate. An important key to this process is that there are no pre-outlined goals that we are working toward. Where we go from here will depend on what we *together* discern is the call of God for our congregation.

You have heard me ask the questions, “who is God calling us to be now” and “what is God calling us to do now.” These questions are the guides for this process. I will continue to ask these questions frequently over the coming months and I hope that you will too. I expect that if those people in the Bible who come to your mind when you imagine God's calling, had asked or been asked these questions before their now familiar stories, they would have been uncertain how to answer them. And if that is true, well, it's probably ok for us to be uncertain how to answer them the first time too. But don't let your uncertainty at the answer keep you from asking the questions. Pay attention to your initial responses and how they change as you continue to ask and sit with these questions. And when we gather, and ask these questions together, maybe together, we will have a better sense of who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do, now.

# HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenette Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

We often learn the Christian faith through music. Much of what we understand about God, the church, the world, and ourselves is learned through songs and hymns of our childhood, youth, and adult years. In times of great joy or challenge, reflection and recommitment, awe and emotion, we find ourselves remembering and singing the music of the church. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a contemporary hymn writer, speaks to the challenges we are facing personally and as a faith community through her hymn, “Christ Be with Us”, and can be sung to the tune of “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”:

Christ be with us, Christ behind us,  
Christ before us—all around!  
Christ in busy, noisy cities,  
Christ where hardly rings a sound.  
Jesus, you’re our Lord and Savior;  
On your love we can depend.  
Help us see your presence clearly  
In each stranger and each friend.

Christ in lines of people fleeing,  
Praying that a war will cease;  
Christ in battered women’s shelters,  
Looking for a place of peace.  
Christ with people sick or dying,  
Loved ones trying hard to cope—  
In this world of so much suffering,  
Christ, you give your people hope.

Christ with children who must struggle,  
Working hard for daily food;  
Christ in classrooms, learning, growing,  
Asking questions, seeking good;  
Christ in diners, waiting tables;  
Christ in homes where children play—  
In this world of people working,  
Christ, you work through us today.

Christ with all who keep on struggling,  
Helping others to be free;  
Christ with churches working, searching  
For a greater unity;  
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,  
Giving strength for each new day—  
In this world of daily crosses,  
Be our joyful, living Way.\*

\*Used by permission from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today’s Worship*, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Geneva Press, 2000

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through January 2025

### Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 01/31/2025) = \$88.79

	October	November	December	January
<b>Income</b>	\$35,654.90	\$28,308.19	\$69,622.68	\$25,601.16
<b>Expenses</b>	\$33,490.71	\$27,100.68	\$33,158.08	\$37,738.36
<b>Net</b>	\$2,164.19	\$1,207.51	\$36,464.60	(\$12,137.20)
<b>YTD</b>	\$14,450.87	\$15,298.38	\$51,762.98	(\$12,137.20)

## ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
January 5	32	54
January 12	9	On Line only
January 19	26	74
January 26	33	98

## DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

**February 2:** Carolyn Blevins/Peggy Dalton/Nenette Measels

**February 9:** Susan Garber/Betty Watkins/Major Treadway

**February 16:** Carolyn Blevins/Karen Smith/Chad Hartsock

**February 23:** Leon Shoemaker/Jim Wilson/Nenette Measels

# Upcoming Sermons

**Feb 16** **Planted by Water**  
*Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1*

**Feb 23** **On Your Mark, Get Set...**  
*Genesis 45:3-11; Psalm 37:1-11*

**Mar 2** **Calling in Context**  
*Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36*

**Mar 9** **When We Have Answered God's Call**  
*Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13*

The poster features a background of numerous hand-drawn Easter eggs in various colors (blue, purple, pink, brown) with different patterns. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'First JeffKIDS' which includes a cross icon. A large, light pink circle is centered on the page, containing the event details. The text is written in a dark blue, serif font. At the top and bottom of the pink circle are decorative sunburst-like symbols.

**First  
JeffKIDS**

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Saturday, April 19th**  
10:30 to 11:30 am  
FBC Jefferson City  
The Easter Story, Crafts,  
& Egg Hunting (of course)!  
Food trucks on site to purchase  
lunch afterwards!

A promotional poster for Passport Kids Camp 2025. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow sun rising over a green grassy field. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif and cursive fonts. The main title 'WIDE OPEN SPACES' is in large, bold, green letters. Below it, 'PASSPORT' is written in white on a yellow horizontal bar. To the left, the dates 'June 17-20, 2025' and location 'Berea, KY' are in orange. To the right, the cost '\$368 per camper/chaperone' is in orange. At the bottom, two orange rounded rectangles contain 'PASSPORTkids.' and 'passportcamps.org'. The phrase 'We're heading to Passport!' is written in a large, green, cursive font across the middle.

**WIDE  
OPEN  
SPACES**

June 17-20,  
2025  
Berea, KY

**PASSPORT**

\$368  
per camper/  
chaperone

We're heading to Passport!

PASSPORTkids. | [passportcamps.org](http://passportcamps.org)

Be on the lookout for information concerning camp fundraisers! Let Bethany know if you want to sponsor a camp participant.

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Our first Church Ministries Meeting of 2025 was held on Sunday January 26, 2025. A soup luncheon was followed by our business meeting. Financial news was wonderful, as our offerings exceeded our budget. We also heard a little more about the new Dawnings program that we will begin in the coming months.



We received a thank you from A.M.O.S. for our Advent offering. We would like to share this with you:

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for the incredible Advent Offering.  
Last year was extremely busy with so many

families in need. Over 3300 individuals received food multiple times in 2024. We were also able to complete 30 home repairs. This is up 11 from 2023. We had 32 families live at the Samaritan House. God has given us the opportunity to serve so many. God is faithful to provide. Thank You



## DAWNINGS

Join us in discerning together God's calling for  
FBC into the future.

**February 23**

**March 30**

**April 27**

**May 18**

Meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall,  
directly following the service. Lunches provided.

(Please attend as many gatherings as possible.)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies

10:45am Worship Service

### CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)

#### Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at [www.fbcjeff.org](http://www.fbcjeff.org) or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

## STAFF

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