

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WAYNESBURG

2025  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# **MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

## **REV. DR. DAVID BESS**

### **Senior Pastor's Annual Report for 2025**

**It was my honor and privilege to serve as the senior pastor for the First Baptist Church Waynesburg during 2025. It was an eventful year, full of ministry opportunities for the congregation in general and for me in particular. Joy and grief have both been experienced in the past twelve months. Through them both God has drawn all of us closer together and enabled us to grow in His word and in His Spirit.**

**In addition to preaching and presiding at the Sunday worship services and supervising the church staff, I was blessed to perform eleven baptisms and two child dedications. I attended nearly all the board and committee meetings throughout the year. The benefit was two-fold: I drew closer to individuals through personal interaction on a smaller scale, and I contributed to the discussion process of various ministry decisions. I also led a 6-week Bible study in the spring, going through the book "Trusting God" by Jerry Bridges. It focused on the Biblical truth of God's sovereignty. No doubt this study was used by the Lord to encourage us in the deaths we experienced throughout the year.**

**During 2025 I presided over four funerals of past and present church leaders. These were losses sustained not only by church families, but by the entire congregation. Tim Hawfield had been active in multiple leadership capacities of the church and community. Rev. Dr. Dick Visser was our beloved pastor emeritus. Cathy Held was ministering faithfully as our Deacon chairperson. Nelson Fox was playing skillfully as our church organist. It's been my goal to provide pastoral comfort and spiritual leadership to the grieving family and congregational members throughout the year.**

Near the end of 2025 I appointed an organist search committee to find a new organist. As I see it, the organ provides depth and transcendence to each weekly worship service. Rather than phasing this instrument out, as many church leaders have done, I'm committed to its continued use in the future. The Lord graciously provided us with a new organist who will begin her duties on the first Sunday in January. We also have been blessed to have Debbie Crouse as a capable interim organist who was available immediately after Nelson's sudden passing.

Regarding community involvement, I've participated in the monthly meetings of the Greene County Ministers Group. I've also developed closer relationships with a few of the men who are part of that fellowship. I served for a few months in an interim position on the leadership board of The Way, enabling me to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of this important new outreach of First Baptist.

On the matter of continuing education, this past year I enrolled as a student at the Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary. This institution is the same one from which Cody Andrews is pursuing a degree. For me, it's been 25 years since I was a student in a specialized seminary program, and 40 years since I was a student in a generalized seminary program. This course of online study is especially designed for seasoned pastors who would like to brush up on their theological education. CBTS is unique in that, unlike many progressive seminaries, it is rooted in historic Baptist theology and distinctives. I'm excited about the prospects of a deeper grounding in Biblical and Baptist principles. My wife Jeannie and I have been blessed richly by the wonderful fellowship we enjoy at First Baptist Church Waynesburg. I'm eager for what the Lord has in store for us in the future as we continue to serve Him together.



**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV**

**With a shepherd’s heart,  
Pastor David**



## CHURCH OFFICIARY 2026

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bess	304-542-6838
Director of Children and Families and Christian Sandbox Preschool	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	Mikayla Schultz	
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
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, Wayne Knisely, Ruth Huffman, Linda Rush, Susan Gregorich, Rich Raymont, Bryan Loughner, Sarah Brandstetter, Missy Sargent, Cody Andrews**

### Pastoral Relations

**Cody Andrews, Mark Fox, Dawn Mankey, MaChal Forbes, Roland Daniels**

## Deacon Board

2026	2027	2028
Glen Farrier MaChal Forbes, V-chair Sally Johnson	Mike Butler Wayne Knisely, Chair Peter Remeas	Vicky Devore Ruth Huffman Joanne Todd Jordan Rupert

## Education Board

2026	2027	2028
Sarah Brandstetter, Co-chair Missy Sargent, Co-chair	Kelcee Rupert, Sec.	Cody Andrews, Council Rep Danielle Shrader Tammie Johnson
Stephanie Knisely - Director of Children, Family, and the Christian Sandbox Mandi Restanio - Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Technology		

## Mission Board

2026	2027	2028
Nancy Fox Jeannie Bess Linda Rush Susan Gregorich	Debbie Closser	Becky Walker Annette Tustin Owen Farrier Mary Anne Cumberledge

## Trustee Board

2026	2027	2028
Ed Gaskill Bryan Loughner Mike Simms	Rich Rayment, Chair Ron Fox Randy George	Cody Rush Tom Dorazio Dave Fox, V-chair
Garrett Huffman, Moderator; Rev. Dr. David Bess, Pastor; Lauren McCollum, Treasurer		

# Long Range Planning

2026	2027	2028
Tim Mankey Cody Rush Matt Brandstetter	Jonathan Johnson Stephanie Knisely	

## Congregational Life Committee

2026	2027	2028
Carol Mankey	Linda Rush	

## Stewardship and Nominating Committee

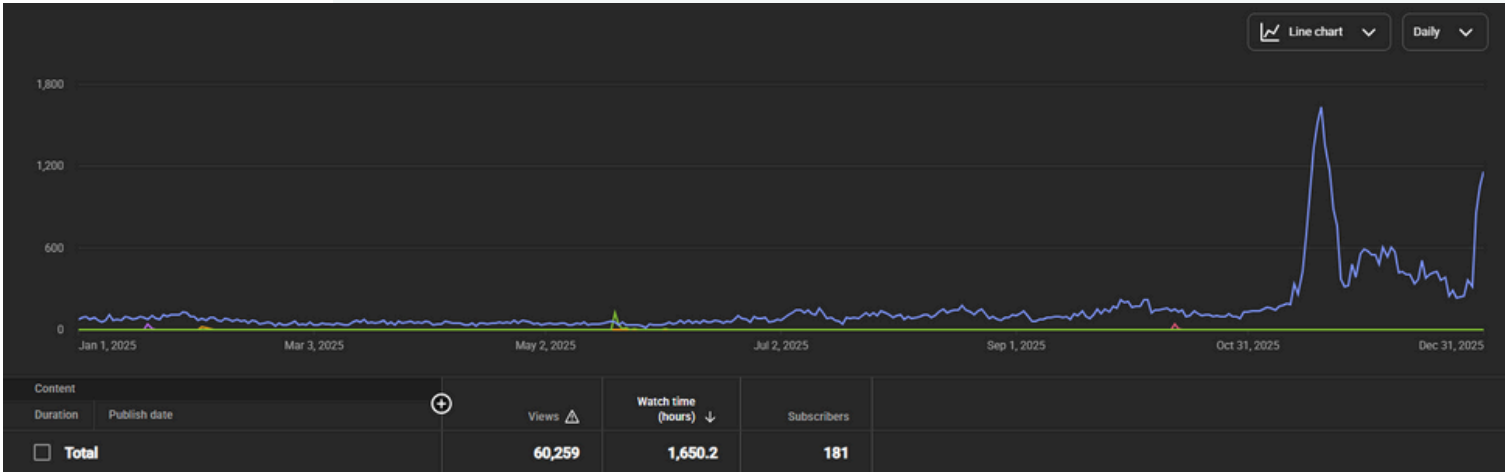
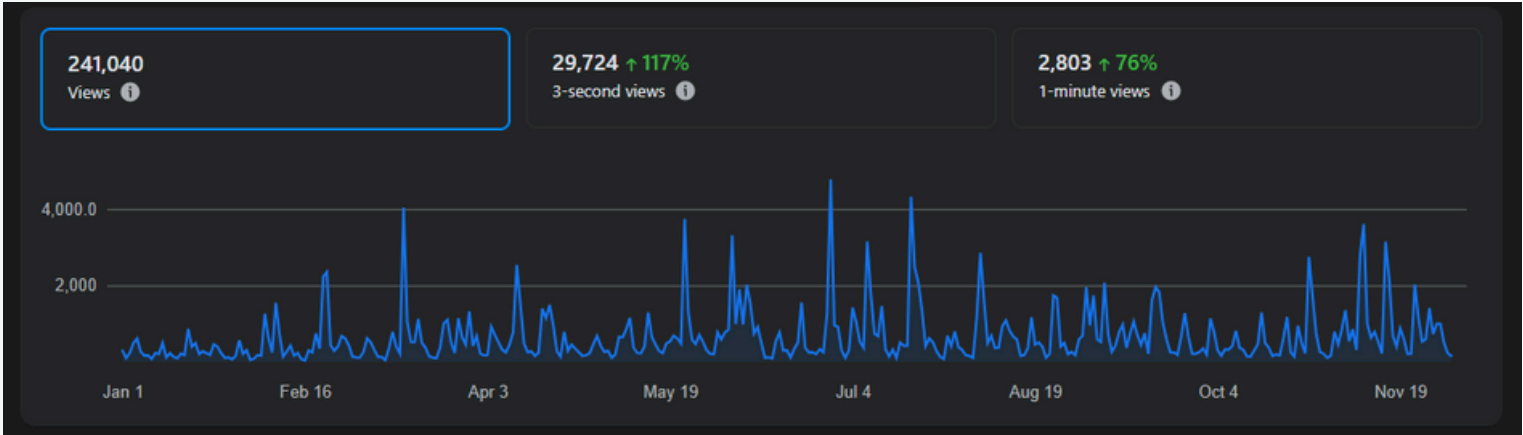
2026	2027	2028
Dale Gaskill	Sally Johnson	

## Personnel Committee

2026	2027	2028
Erin Hall		Sarah Brandstetter Mike Simms Gina Mankey
Vice Moderator - Jonathan Johnson		

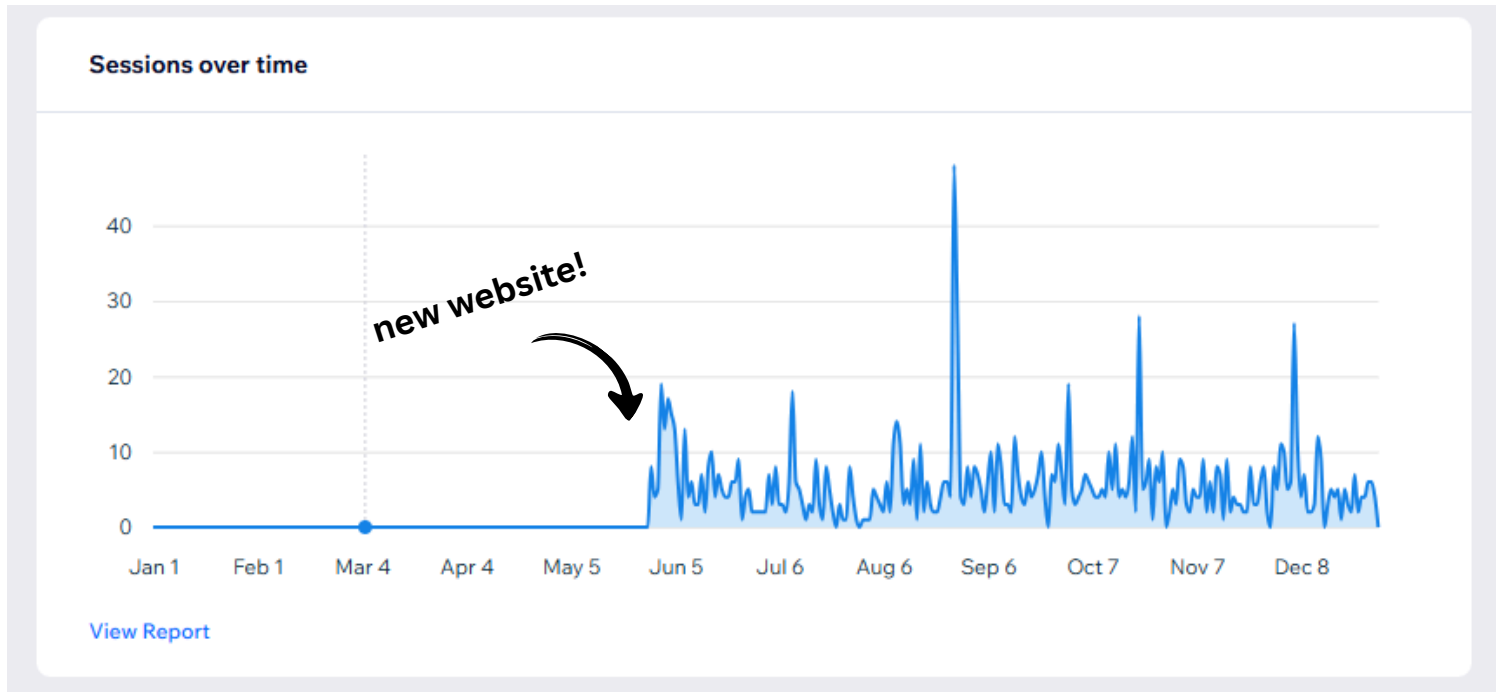


# OUR ONLINE IMPACT



# OUR ONLINE IMPACT

WEBSITE; FBCWaynesburg.org



## OUR PHYSICAL PRESENCE



Average Church Attendance - 145

Average Sunday School Attendance - 47

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## 7TH - 12TH GRADE

Our Youth Group, "Illuminate", meets every Sunday evening with the exception of special events and holidays. In 2025, 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. 7th-12th grade meets together for a game or activity and a 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.

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!



*"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*



# YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Cup of Grace Coffeehouse was held at the church weekly on Tuesday 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 2025.

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

Our Mystery Dinner Fundraiser was in April and a huge success! not only does it raise funds for the youth mission trip, it builds a bond between the church and college members.



# Children's Ministry

What a year of growth, joy, and faith for our kids!

Throughout 2025, our Children's Ministry has continued to flourish as we guide our youngest members to know, love, and follow Jesus. Here are some of the highlights from this incredible year:

## *Launch of SPARK! (Tween Youth Group)*

This year marked the exciting debut of SPARK!, our new ministry designed especially for tweens. SPARK! provides a place for 4th–6th graders to connect, explore their faith more deeply, and build lasting friendships through Bible study, games, and service projects. The group has grown steadily each month, and the enthusiasm and energy of our tweens have truly “sparked” something special in our church family.

## *Growth of Ignite! (After-School Program)*

Our after-school program, Ignite!, experienced tremendous growth this year. Attendance has increased, and we've added new activities—homework help, creative arts, and faith-based lessons that help kids live out God's love in their everyday lives. Ignite! continues to be a powerful outreach opportunity, connecting our church to families in the community throughout the week.

## *Celebrating Baptisms*

One of the most joyful moments of 2025 has been witnessing several of our children take the next step in their faith through baptism. Each testimony was a powerful reminder of God's work in the hearts of our young people and the impact of a nurturing church community.

## *Sunday School: Growing in God's Word*

Our Sunday School continues to thrive, serving children from Pre-K through 6th grade. Dedicated teachers have created fun, interactive lessons that help kids understand Scripture and apply it to their lives. From Bible stories and crafts in the younger classes to deeper discussions and service projects for the older grades, our children are growing strong roots of faith.

## *Children's Church*

We have grown more in our education as volunteers and children with the two new curriculums' we started this fall. Plus the awesome addition of Owen Farrier teaching our older kids.

## *Looking Ahead to 2026*

As we look forward, we're excited to keep building on this momentum—expanding SPARK! and Ignite!, supporting our amazing volunteers, and continuing to create spaces where kids can encounter God's love in meaningful ways.

“Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14





# Family Ministry



## Some Highlights of 2025

MOVIE OUTING - PRAYER EXPERIENCE - EGG HUNT - GRADUATION SUNDAY- CHURCH PICNIC - VBS - BENDS AND BAGELS - POOL PARTY - WILD THINGS GAME - PUMPKIN PALOOZA - TURKEY TROT PREP - FROSTY FESTIVITIES - CHRISTMAS PARADE - LIVE NATIVITY - SOFTBALL - SOCCER TEAM SPONSORSHIP - WAY TO READING



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



# Choir



2025 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 2025



## Financial Ministry

### Royalty's Role in the Church Missions

--2025 Royalty Income continued to bless the Church with \$483,756. The Trustees have invested funds that have added earnings to the church portfolio. The Operating Reserve and Building & Capital Asset Funds were paid back from the funds used for Phase II construction of The Way building and they requested further funds to again to help finish the final, Phase III (The Christian Sandbox space). For 2025, the allocation of Royalties, \$200,244 was added to the Building & Capital Asset Fund for the Long Range Planning Committee, \$25,036 was added to the Ministry Opportunity Fund for Church Council and \$8,345 to the Mission Fund for the Mission Board.

### Perpetual Fund

-The Church Members voted during the summer business meeting to put aside the earnings from the Perpetual Fund for inside signage, new outside sign and chairs from the 75% (\$5,238) to stay within the church. These funds were placed in the Special Project Fund. The remaining 25% (1,746) was sent to Samaritan's Purse for the victims of the North Carolina Floods.

The 2024 Perpetual Fund allocation was fulfilled by the purchase and installation of the kitchen ice machine. The unused portion of this purchased was rolled over into the 2025 allocation.

### Financial Reports submitted by Lauren McCollum, Treasurer

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil--this is a gift of God. Ecclesiastes 5:19

# 2025 Giving

## Operating Fund

Total Operating Fund Giving: \$352,708

## Designated Giving

Mission Fund \$32,218  
Memorial Fund \$1,668  
The Way Campaign \$23,158  
Youth Ministry Fund \$4,155  
Fellowship Fund \$12,807



Total Giving: \$427,982

FUN FACT:  
85 PEOPLE  
DONATED TO  
FIRST BAPTIST  
IN 2025

### January 1, 2026 FUND BALANCE Highlights

Church Operating Fund \$ 54  
The Way Campaign \$4,996  
Operating Reserve Fund \$815,650  
Building & Capital Asset Reserve Fund \$317,694  
Ministry Opportunity Fund \$162,132  
Mission Fund \$14,803  
Fellowship Fund \$8,278

# Investments



## Reserve Funds:

\$1,295,476

First Baptist Church has been the steward of shares of Oil & Gas productions that continue to grow and bless the Church with Royalties.

In the Reserve Fund;

The Operating Reserve has a \$815,650 balance.

The Building & Capital Asset Fund has \$317,694.

The Ministry Opportunity Fund has \$162,132.

Royalty Income 2024: \$483,756

2025 Unrealized Gain: \$2,033

2025 Investment Earnings: \$13,243

## Restricted/Non-Restricted Funds:

\$ 829,113

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: \$35,499

2024 Unrealized Gain: \$77,170

# 2026 Budget

## Summary by Account Group

Account Group	Income	Expense
Church Operation Pledges	\$208,840	
Unpledged Operation Needs	\$208,169	-
Mission Pledges	\$ 43,560	
Other Income	\$ 60,000	-
Investment Earnings	\$ 20,050	-
Personnel Expenses	-	\$300,259
Education Board Expenses	-	\$ 34,700
Deacon Board Expenses	-	\$ 9,300
Mission Board Expenses	-	\$ 42,060
Trustee Board Expenses	-	\$154,300
TOTAL	\$540,619	\$540,619

*Mission is growing in the hearts of our congregation. Thank you Lord.*



## 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 Way.

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**  
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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  
Chris

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 2025</b>		<b>506</b>
<b>Received in 2025</b>		
<b>By Baptism</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>By Experience</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Dismissed in 2025</b>		
<b>Death</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>516</b>	

**Respectfully submitted,  
Vicky Devore, Secretary**

# Deacon Board

**Board Members:** Wayne Knisely, Chair., MaChal Forbes, V. Chair., Rachel Fox, Sec., Joanne Todd, Cor. Sec., Mike Butler, Glen Farrier, Sally Johnson, Chris Las, and Peter Rameas

The Chairperson Cathy Held passed away in August and Wayne Knisely assumed the position of chairperson.

**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 accomplishment of the Deacon Board during the year 2025.

1. Reorganization of the board and welcoming of new members will occur at the December, 2025 meeting.
2. Due to the sudden passing of our beloved Chairman, Cathy Held on July 8, 2025, an election of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman was held.. Wayne Knisely was elected chairperson and MaChal Forbes. was elected Vice Chairperson.
3. Established a Deacon outreach ministry with each Deacon contacting members of the church to offer prayer, assistance and any other spiritual or physical needs.
4. Preparation and serving Communion each month and at other services if requested. This includes the Maundy Thursday service.
5. Assisted in the Good Friday evening service. We assisted with various activities including praying with individuals, helping to guide attendees and in other ways as requested.
6. Assist in all Baptisms and welcoming of new members.
7. Provided Bibles and Devotionals to all adult and youth joining the church.

8. Provided grave site maintenance for the Memorial Committee. Vicky Devore, David Baker, Mike and Zach Butler have been diligent in this ministry.
9. Amanda Tustin is coordinating all funeral dinners with assistance from a dedicated group of volunteers who are willing to donate food and time to this important ministry.
10. Ruth Huffman has been scheduling our Sunday morning greeters and monitors the prayer requests to the church website.
11. Nancy Fox continues to receive and distribute prayer requests to the prayer chain.
12. Stephanie Knisely continues to train and schedule acolytes for services.
13. All committee appointments were diligent in their various activities.
14. Sally Johnson, will assist with the committee search for an organist after the passing of our beloved organist Nelson Fox.
15. New ESV pew Bibles were purchased. Many members generously donated the cost of many of the Bibles. Wayne Knisely was in charge of this endeavor. The large print Readers Bible was dedicated in loving memory of Cathy Held.

Our Board of Deacons were faithful and worked diligently under the leadership of Cathy Held, Wayne Knisely, MaChal Forbes and Pastor Bess to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our Church 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:

- The Way to Reading (reading partners at WCES)
- Sunday School classes for children, youth, young adults and adults
  - Family Easter Movie Event
  - FBC Easter Egg Hunt
  - Mystery Dinner Theatre Production
  - Children's Choir events
  - Bell Choir
- Women's "Bends and Bagels" yoga event
- 5-Day Vacation Bible School Rocket Racers Theme
  - Church Softball League
- Ignite children's fellowship program
- Camp Carmel summer youth camp
- Church family pool night at Waynesburg Aquatic Center
  - Touch-a-Truck
- Spark children's fellowship program
  - Pumpkin Palooza
  - Christmas Parade
  - Live Nativity community
  - Frosty Festivities
  - Youth Retreats
  - Youth Kennywood Trip
- Cup of Grace Coffee House

- 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
  - Youth Mission Trip

The preschool had a successful year. The number of students have remained constant, and both programs have been financially successful.

The Education Board recognized Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day, our 2025 graduates, presented Bibles to students, and organized an outdoor worship service and church picnic at the Lions Club Park. The Education Board was faithful and continued to offer fun and meaningful educational opportunities to the member of First Baptist Church.

We have been very blessed with the faithful leadership of Stephanie Knisely and Mandi Restanio to oversee Children and Families and Youth and Young Adult Ministries. 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 2026!

Thanks for all you do!

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Schloemer,  
Secretary Pro-Tem



# 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 support Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Free Care Fund, St Jude's Hospital, Salvation Army, Wounded Warriors, Camp Carmel, the Ten Mile Association, WWJD, CBM and others in need.

The Congregation's generous donations also go to support the American Baptist Mission which includes Missionaries, of Ann & Bill Clemmer and Debbie & Keith Myers, Retired M&M and Three in One Missions.

The following were completed by the mission board for the year 2025:

- Year-long collection of items for Operation Christmas Child with each month having a theme. Items stored throughout the year and a record setting number of 354 Boxes were packed by the Mission Board and the Illuminate youth.
- Packed "blessing bags" for homeless that were taken and dispersed by the congregation. They contained Greene County resources and hygiene products.
- Cookies for shut-ins for Easter and Christmas.
- Donations made to: Ukrainian Mission Refugee Summer Camp, Stuff the Bus, Operation Christmas Child, Becky Juliano's Coalition for Christian Outreach at Waynesburg University, Second Samuel Nine, Project Balloon, Youth Missions, and The Way Community Center.



The Mission Board greatly appreciates the generosity of the congregation of First Baptist. With your help and willingness to give, we were able to meet the needs of our community and beyond.



Respectfully submitted,

Gina Mankey, Sec.



# Trustee Board

## Board of Trustees

Wade Cowell  
Gene Falvo  
John McNay

Ed Gaskill  
Bryan Loughner  
Mike Simms

Ron Fox  
Randy George  
Rick Raymont

The Trustee Board meets the second Thursday of each month.

The accomplishments of the Board during 2025 are as follows:

1. Replaced lights and ceiling tiles in Circle of Friends/Lohr Classroom.
2. Sold the parsonage for \$264,000.
3. Purchased a commercial ice maker.
4. Purchased a washer and dryer.
5. Deep cleaning of the church completed by Panhandle.
6. Hired an architect to establish guidelines for Church Renovations.
7. Managed investments, insurance, and maintained the property of the Church.
8. Pledged \$518,000 to The Way to complete the Phase 3 which includes the rear of the Building and Preschool area.
9. Painted various rooms in the church.
10. Purchased a new desk and chair for Mandi's office.
11. Replaced the intercom system in the church to include adding one in the kitchen and The Well.

12. Officers for 2026 are as follows:

Chairperson - Rick Raymont  
Vice-Chairperson - Dave Fox  
Secretary - Bryan Loughner  
Long Range Planning - Cody Rush  
Stewardship and Nomination - Dave Fox  
Personnel - Mike Simms

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Falvo Secretary

# Memorial Committee

There were three members called home during 2025. 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 16, 1945	Timothy Hawfield	January 9, 2025
April 28, 1937	Rev. Dr. Richard Visser	May 14, 2025
Dec. 17, 1954	Cathy Ann Held	July 8, 2025
Feb. 7, 1944	Nelson H. Fox	August 25, 2025

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.



# Adult Sunday School

## Fellowship Class Meets in the Fellowship Hall

Through faithful prayer, study, and discussion God has led 2025 to be another successful year. Using the “Christ Centered Exposition” commentary book series we have continued our learning through Joshua and Isaiah. Specifically, for Joshua we completed our study using "Exalting Jesus in Joshua, by Robert Smith. We also completed Isaiah 1-25 in 2025 using “Exalting Jesus in Isaiah” by Andrew M. Davis and plan to complete all remaining (to 66) in 2026. Praise God the Father, the Son, and Spirit for our growth in Christian learning.

God bless  
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.**

**Marcia Bartlett**

# Adult Sunday School

## Seekers Sunday School Class Meets in The Library

The Seekers Sunday School Class meets at 9:00 a.m. in the library to read God's word, pray for each other and enjoy a time of friendly discussion and fellowship. In July we studied Rick Warren's 40 Days in the Word to examine various ways to read scripture and apply it to our lives. We prepared for Easter by reading the devotional guide, Sanctuary for Lent by Justin LaRose. And we began our study of the Book of Romans by David Platt, Daniel Akin and Tony Merida in September and paused for advent. For Advent we joined with our church family to study the devotional, Let Earth Receive Her King by Alistair Begg. We will resume our study of Romans in January.

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**