



News From The Corner **The First Baptist Church of Derry**

**The Church in the Heart of Derry
With A Heart for Derry**

October-November 2025



Nothing in our constitution frustrates me more than its definition of "Deacons". Whoever wrote it - does anyone know? - badly misinterpreted the Bible's teaching. It says of our Deacons, "The Diaconate serves the Lord by conducting caring ministry of the church", and lists among Deacon's duties "to visit the sick and homebound". That is exactly what Deacons are in the Bible - caregivers. See Acts 6. The first group of Deacons were formed to ensure the care of elderly widows was carried out fairly. That could also be called a ministry of caring.

But then our constitution goes on to say our Deacons are also to "provide strong spiritual leadership... be alert to the spiritual needs of the congregation...teach sound doctrine...help believers mature spiritually".

These are NOT Deacon tasks in the Bible - that is what Elders do. In the Bible Elders are the spiritual leaders in a church. The Deacons are to take care of the congregation's physical and emotional needs so that the Elders can lead spiritually. Our constitution's interpretation of these 2 roles is unbiblical and confused.

For now I won't address the idea that our spiritual leaders should be called Elders and not deacons. Spiritual leaders in both the Old and New Testament were always called Elders - dozens of time. Many Baptist churches have seen this is true and made the change to Elder. Many others still hold onto Baptist tradition instead of following the Bible's teaching.

The greater need I see here now is for a group of women and men who have been gifted by God's Spirit in caring for others when they're sick or in need, facing some difficulty, or grieving. This would involve visiting them, making phone calls, lending a sympathizing ear, making sure they have things they need, or arranging rides for them.

As a single man its awkward or unwise for me to visit women alone in their homes. Our women here don't have that same problem, AND are more gifted than me in showing compassion and providing companionship to them. They should have a chance to use their gifts in a setting like this.

I do my best to visit people when I hear they're in the hospital, but I'm retiring next Spring partly because I just cannot do as much as I used to. I have not been able to make enough home visits. I've never brought a meal to people who are shut-in. Sometimes I don't visit people who are in grief or have lost loved ones. Those are worthwhile things for a church to do. I just can't get to them all

A Caring ministry, board, or committee could do things like this and it would help our people, as well as let people who are gifted in these areas use those gifts. I hope we can discuss forming one.

Pastor Malcolm



**GOD
is
GOOD**



Stay in touch with old friends:

Beverly Ford

2847 Ingalls Dr., White City, OR 97503

The Lectionary - I'm still preaching from passages found here. If you'd like to read Sunday's Scripture before coming to worship you can find the weekly readings here: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

I've enjoyed seeing how the readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, Gospels and Epistles fit together thematically. The idea of a lectionary goes back to the 400s. I don't know who maintains the list of readings now. I believe this one we use is from the Methodists because Vanderbilt is a Methodist school, but its very similar to the ones used by Roman Catholics and Anglicans. I think there's some value in reading the same passages so many other Christians read the same week.



Downtown Trick or Treat

—will take place on Saturday October 25 from noon-3pm. Volunteers are always welcome. It's fun to be at our table outside and see the children dressed in costume. We give out Bible tracts as well as snacks or candy that day. Many times families stop to talk so this is another outreach opportunity.

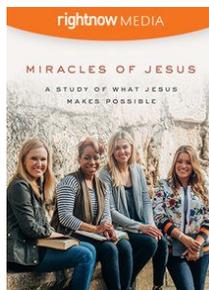


Wednesday Morning Womens Bible Study

We are beginning a new video series, "The Parables of Jesus" by Matt Williams. This is a six-week study with video and discussion. The study will give new insights into six of Jesus' parables focusing on the Kingdom of God. The lessons bring new insight and meaning into the familiar passages. All women are welcome to join us each Wednesday at 10:00 –11:30 in FBC fellowship hall.

Please Join Us

10:00am on Wednesdays
See Gail Gorski with questions
or for more information



DERRYFEST

Derryfest was a great event this year. The weather was perfect which made for great crowds. The number of our own people who came out to volunteer amazed me - almost 18 - and their willingness and ability to engage with the townspeople was really admirable. Thank the Lord for that level of enthusiasm. A special shoutout to Caelyn and Trinity who were awesome with little kids, inviting them to do the beanbag toss. We had many conversations with people that day, and gave out at least 30 copies of a gospel booklet, as well as received 4 prayer request forms. Pray for God's Spirit to work in the hearts of all these people and that the seeds we planted would produce fruit.

Operation Christmas Child

is coming! Please grab a red and green shoebox from Karen in the narthex, fill it with the items Samaritans Purse lists as needed, and return it. We will be sending those boxes in for distribution overseas in early November.



A New Face in the Office

Pamela Piggott has accepted the position of Office Manager, and will be working 16 hours a week to start. Pray for Pam in this position. The support she will provide to our church and her interactions with those who come into the office are very important to our ministry.



TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Tuesday night Bible Study at 7:00pm for the study or at 6:15pm for supper and fellowship.

IGNITE THE FIRE

Ignite the Fire meets at FBC on Friday nights at 6:30pm. Please join us in FBC Fellowship Hall for a time of praise, prayer, and Bible study.



Here is a photo of the First Baptist Church of New York that was mentioned by Pastor Malcolm last month.

What's Happening at FBC...



Our Music Committee met in September and made plans for the Fall through Christmas. Alex continues to lead the worship team and arrange special music, and provide some himself. He's open to new volunteers in that area. We're also praying for another guitarist to play with Ron D and a drummer. Alex will lead a Christmas concert/singalong in December.

Pamela is leading the choir, and plans for us to sing 2x/month. We will practice after worship for an hour 3 Sundays a month, and twice on Wednesday at 7pm. We'd love to have some new singers! She and the choir will lead a Cantata during the Christmas season. Again, we'd love to have.

Of course, a big praise for Alex and Mara's new baby daughter Maya who was dedicated here in December.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Sunday mornings at 9am. All are welcome to join.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - Study starts at 7pm, Join us at 6:15 for supper and fellowship. All are welcome. See Chris Miller with any questions.

LADIES' WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - All Women are invited to attend each Wed morning 10-11:30 in the fellowship hall. We'd be delighted to have you join us. Contact Gail at 603 553-0433 with any questions.

THURSDAY VIDEO BIBLE STUDY - This study meets Thursdays at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall and is open to everyone. We view DVDs that have great information and insight into the Bible. Please join us if you are able.

IGNITE THE FIRE - Friday nights at 6:30 - meets in Fellowship Hall. Led by Alpha Kanu. All are welcome.



CHECK THE CALENDAR ON LAST PAGE FOR ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES



Three of the women from our Missions Committee attended a "Learn about our ministry" event one evening in August at the Real Options pregnancy counseling center in Manchester. We hosted Willis Atieno from United Hope in Kenya, and met a medical missionary from Londonderry, Jared Bell.

Our Food Pantry continues to serve those who need food assistance. I see the lines of people in the parking lot each Tuesday. Margaret Isbell does a great job of getting lots of volunteers involved in the ministry each week.

One of our Board members, Nancy Francis, was able to get Market Basket to let the Pantry have a table outside one Saturday recently, and collected over \$1,000 in contributions as well as 3 carloads of food. Nancy is also the main organizer of the Pantry Plunge.



**THANK
you
FOR ALL
you Do!**



Volunteers have been extraordinary and must be recognized. The Outreach group has put on several special fellowship events recently, in addition to their usual coffee hour service, and has done a fabulous job. Chris Muise has provided invaluable help on Music, both at worship and at practices, and in leading our Trustees.

Trustees - Tim Isbell has been working on putting new plexiglass over the stained glass windows in front and on the west side of the sanctuary.

The Trustees will make a proposal next year to air condition the Sanctuary.

NE Patriot TreVeyon Henderson is vocal about his Christian faith. He grew up in a very scary inner-city environment and his testimony of how God saved him from that is powerful. His college team at Ohio State last year underwent a revival too. You can read about him by searching "Treveyon Henderson Christian".

We are debating what to do about our church having a presence on social media sites like Instagram and Facebook. Please pray for those discussions.



Media/Books



Here are the lyrics to a great song the Grass' family sang at the 4th of July, "From a Star to Stripes", about our love for the Lord, and for the USA.



Verse 1: Betsy never sewed a star like this star
Though in love she made a flag for this great land.
For the star that shone so bright, as the angel sang that night
Brought the light of the world to Bethlehem.

Chorus: From a star to stripes was the life of Jesus Christ
From a manger bed to the Cross was where He was led
An though there's glory in Old Glory she can never quite
Compare to the glory of the Cross of Calvary

Verse 2 Betsy never knew a stripe like His stripes
For her stripes were born of love and His of hate
For my freedom hers were made and for my healing His were laid
And I could never thank them both enough today

Chorus





October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	2 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	3 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	4
5 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	6	7 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	8 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	9 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	10 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	11
12 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	13	14 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	15 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	16 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	17 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	18 6:00pm Business Meeting
19 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	20	21 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	22 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	23 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	24 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	25 Downtown Trick or Treat 12:00-3:00
26 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	27 	28 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	29 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	30 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	31 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	



November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	3	4 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	5 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	6 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	7 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	8
9 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	10	11 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	12 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	13 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	14 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	15
16 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	17	18 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	19 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study, Fell. Hall	20 1pm Video Bible Study, Fell. Hall	21 6:30p Ignite the Fire in Fellowship Hall	22
23 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service	24	25 6:15pm Supper 7pm Bible Study	26	27 	28	29
30 Advent Starts 9am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship Service						