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FEBRUARY 2025

FBC

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"As we prepare to watch the Super Bowl,
help us to remember those who are without
even a bowl of soup to eat."



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - Collection Sunday, February 9

Soup pots will be used to collect money to supplement "food insecure" households. Please bring \$1 (or \$2 or \$20) to place in the pot. All donations will go to our local Agape Food Pantry.

CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH

On-Going Calendar Events

M-W-F—3:00 PM-4:00 PM—Hundred Acre Woods Walkers

Every Monday—AA Meeting—7:00 PM

Every Wednesday—LHS Cats For Christ—7:50 AM

Every Wednesday—Youth Group—6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Every Wednesday—1st Service Praise Team—7:00 PM

Every Thursday—AWANA—6:15 PM-7:50 PM

**Every Saturday—Women's United Prayer Group—8:30 AM
various locations**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE—

8:15 AM—WORSHIP

9:45 AM—SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

(YOUTH & ADULT ELECTIVES)

11:00 AM—WORSHIP & KIDS' KONNECTION

12:15 PM—Deaconess Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

JESSE SMITH BECAME OUR LEAD PASTOR 6 YEARS AGO TODAY

12:00 PM-5:00 PM—Crafter's Corner—FLC

6:30 PM—American Heritage Girls (meets at Faith Chapel)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NO SCHOOL—NO YOUTH GROUP

9:00 AM—LMA Pastors' Prayer

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:00 AM—Men's Breakfast—FLC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE (see February 2)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:30 PM—Deacon Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:00 PM—Christian Ed & Trustee Meetings

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE (see February 2)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17—PRESIDENT'S DAY

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

6:30 PM—American Heritage Girls (meets at Faith Chapel)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER

11:30 AM—Koinonia Cluster Pastors' Prayer

**12:00 PM—Women's Bookworm Café—Youth Room
(Shelter—Merrill)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00 AM—Men's Breakfast—FLC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE (see February 2)

Mykola Seminov visiting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30 PM—Building Committee

"I AM HERE"

In Bread for the Journey, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from "to be with" (con-) "the lonely one" (solus) — "one of the most important ways to care." He writes, "Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see."

Although consoling doesn't necessarily remove someone's pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means "to be there and say, 'You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don't be afraid. I am here.' That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it."

I want to take a moment and say, "Thank You".

Since its February and we celebrate love, I want to say thank you to all the couples who have remained faithfully true to their marriage vows.



Many couples go 30, 40, 50+ years of being married and are extremely under appreciated. Not by their spouse, but by everyone else. Whether we realize it or not, we are watching you.

Your example is one that is desperately needed in the world today. An example of steadfastness through good times and bad. Of loving, self sacrificial care in sickness and in health. You display the love of Christ for all to see.

So, I take this moment to say **Thank You.**

Also, this month, you should be receiving the next "Mini-study" in your inboxes.

Last month I started creating these small, bite-sized lessons on important Bible themes and topics. As we take our deep dive into the kingdom of God, these will serve as our guides throughout the year on becoming the Kingdom Builders God has called us to be. Our first was on the topic of unlocking prayer.

In this second study we turn our attention to the Bible—**Master the Bible in 5 Days.**

It's an ambitious goal, but I think we can transform our Bible reading into something so much more. You see, we weren't called to read God's words, but to:

- Meditate on it day and night
- Hide it in our hearts
- Impress it on our kids [and I would add grandkids]

Please keep an eye on your inboxes starting Monday, February 3rd for a message from:

Pastor Jesse, MASTER THE BIBLE IN 5 DAYS [1/5]: Stop Reading—Start Studying.

(If you are not on our email list, contact the church office to be added, so you too can enjoy Jesse's mini-studies.)

February is here! You can tell because the stores are filled with hearts, flowers, candy, and, of course, valentines!



I feel for the husbands and boyfriends who feel pressure to "wow" the lady in their lives with a magical romantic experience for Valentine's Day. Not only is it stressful for the poor guy, but it's expensive! In 2023, Americans spent an estimated \$25.9 billion on Valentine's Day. This was up from \$23.9 billion in 2022.

That makes me ask the question: Why do we pour all of our efforts into this one day? What is so special about February 14, that makes it "the" day we feel the need to prove our love for one another? Couldn't we show our love to one another just as powerfully on any other day of the year?

I am going to suggest the answer is yes. And our example of how to do it couldn't be any better: Jesus himself.

During His ministry, Jesus showed His love in many ways. And He did it nearly every day. When he saw the hungry, He fed them. When there were those who needed wisdom, He offered wise council. When the sick and lame were brought to Him, He healed them. And when the disciples continued to struggle with their faith, He was a patient and loving friend.

So, as Jesus followers, how might we follow in His remarkable footsteps? Who is in our path that might benefit from a "valentine" from us? Could we offer an encouraging word? A meal for someone in need? A gentle reminder from God's word to someone looking for wisdom? Or just a listening ear to one who is feeling lost and confused?

And one more thing. When Jesus encouraged us to love our neighbor, He was including the neighbor that gets on our nerves. He taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Jesus showed us how. When He was hanging on the cross, He lovingly forgave the very ones who put Him there. Now that is love.

So, let's make this a Valentine's Day to remember... no matter what day it is!

Kami

2025—Our Bible Reading Plan will again be coming from *The One Year® Bible* published by Tyndale.

The One Year® Bible daily reading plan consists of passages from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. This arrangement of Scripture brings variety and a fresh approach to each day's 15-minute reading, while providing a clear understanding of the Bible's larger message. No other "through the bible" plan presents the entire bible in such a user-friendly format.

Purchase your own copy of *The One Year® Bible* or just follow along in your own Bible.

FEBRUARY

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
□ 01	Exodus 13:17-15:18	Matthew 21:23-46	Psalms 26:1-12	Proverbs 6:16-19
□ 02	Exodus 15:19-17:7	Matthew 22:1-33	Psalms 27:1-6	Proverbs 6:20-26
□ 03	Exodus 17:8-19:15	Matthew 22:34-23:12	Psalms 27:7-14	Proverbs 6:27-35
□ 04	Exodus 19:16-21:21	Matthew 23:13-39	Psalms 28:1-9	Proverbs 7:1-5
□ 05	Exodus 21:22-23:13	Matthew 24:1-28	Psalms 29:1-11	Proverbs 7:6-23
□ 06	Exodus 23:14-25:40	Matthew 24:29-51	Psalms 30:1-12	Proverbs 7:24-27
□ 07	Exodus 26:1-27:21	Matthew 25:1-30	Psalms 31:1-8	Proverbs 8:1-11
□ 08	Exodus 28:1-43	Matthew 25:31-26:13	Psalms 31:9-18	Proverbs 8:12-13
□ 09	Exodus 29:1-30:10	Matthew 26:14-46	Psalms 31:19-24	Proverbs 8:14-26
□ 10	Exodus 30:11-31:18	Matthew 26:47-68	Psalms 32:1-11	Proverbs 8:27-32
□ 11	Exodus 32:1-33:23	Matthew 26:69-27:14	Psalms 33:1-11	Proverbs 8:33-36
□ 12	Exodus 34:1-35:9	Matthew 27:15-31	Psalms 33:12-22	Proverbs 9:1-6
□ 13	Exodus 35:10-36:38	Matthew 27:32-66	Psalms 34:1-10	Proverbs 9:7-8
□ 14	Exodus 37:1-38:31	Matthew 28:1-20	Psalms 34:11-22	Proverbs 9:9-10
□ 15	Exodus 39:1-40:38	Mark 1:1-28	Psalms 35:1-16	Proverbs 9:11-12
□ 16	Leviticus 1:1-3:17	Mark 1:29-2:12	Psalms 35:17-28	Proverbs 9:13-18
□ 17	Leviticus 4:1-5:19	Mark 2:13-3:6	Psalms 36:1-12	Proverbs 10:1-2
□ 18	Leviticus 6:1-7:27	Mark 3:7-30	Psalms 37:1-11	Proverbs 10:3-4
□ 19	Leviticus 7:28-9:6	Mark 3:31-4:25	Psalms 37:12-29	Proverbs 10:5
□ 20	Leviticus 9:7-10:20	Mark 4:26-5:20	Psalms 37:30-40	Proverbs 10:6-7
□ 21	Leviticus 11:1-12:8	Mark 5:21-43	Psalms 38:1-22	Proverbs 10:8-9
□ 22	Leviticus 13:1-59	Mark 6:1-29	Psalms 39:1-13	Proverbs 10:10
□ 23	Leviticus 14:1-57	Mark 6:30-56	Psalms 40:1-10	Proverbs 10:11-12
□ 24	Leviticus 15:1-16:28	Mark 7:1-23	Psalms 40:11-17	Proverbs 10:13-14
□ 25	Leviticus 16:29-18:30	Mark 7:24-8:10	Psalms 41:1-13	Proverbs 10:15-16
□ 26	Leviticus 19:1-20:21	Mark 8:11-38	Psalms 42:1-11	Proverbs 10:17
□ 27	Leviticus 20:22-22:16	Mark 9:1-29	Psalms 43:1-5	Proverbs 10:18
□ 28	Leviticus 22:17-23:44	Mark 9:30-10:12	Psalms 44:1-8	Proverbs 10:19



January began with ice and snow storms causing many meetings and our first service of the year to be cancelled.

The **YOUTH GROUP** belatedly celebrated the New Year with an abbreviated (6pm-midnight) Lock-in on January 17. The theme for the gathering was "How to

Thrive in '25". Games, food and devotions, which included celebrating Communion, got the kids started right in the new year.

In celebration of **KANSAS DAY**, Pastor Kami shared the significant role of religion in the formation of our state. Three denominations, Baptist, Methodist and Catholic, created this great religious foundation of freedom. Notable characters in Kansas history included John Brown taking a stand on the issues of slavery and women's rights, and Carrie Nation making her voice heard in the abolition of alcohol. Even today, believers in Kansas are making a difference in the anti-abortion movement. And this legacy goes on—every woman in this church is a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries, a team of spiritually strong and vibrant women who support missionaries, build schools and churches, and support children in need—and that was just last year! Pastor Kami finished by exhorting the women of the congregation to be part of these impactful legacies and traditions by joining the ABW and its efforts across the world. This year we invite all the women of the church to come together and take part in spreading God's message throughout Louisburg, the surrounding areas and the world! The Kansas Day celebration concluded with a delicious meal prepared and served by our own ABW ladies.

The **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** was conducted on Sunday, January 26th, to approve the 2025 budget and review elected church officers.

Elected Church officers are:

Moderator: Pat Apple

Vice Moderator: Steve Parscale

Church Clerk: Joann Hook; Assistant Church Clerk: Suellen Golladay

Financial Secretary: Abby Prettyman

Church Treasurer: Rick Elliott

Deacons for 2025 are: Scott Margrave, Steve Parscale, Alex Prettyman, Brian Gray, Fletch Kelly and Mike Bergman.

Deaconesses for 2025 are: Jeanette Clark, Diane Ferguson, Glenna Keefhaver, Kiff Sarver, Lisa Bunce, Kate Langmade, & Jackie Mack.

Trustees for 2025 are: Larry Hacker, Clay Henningsen, Larry Vest, Jay Minor, Darwin Schildknecht, Ron Cook & Mike Stegeman.

Board of Christian Education for 2025 are: Debbie Apple, Tami Hacker, Kim Manson, Teri Henningsen, Nancy Schmidt, Hope Anderson & Janet York.

Please keep all of our boards and committees in your prayers as they strive to lead our church body on the path God has laid out for us.



FEBRUARY 3

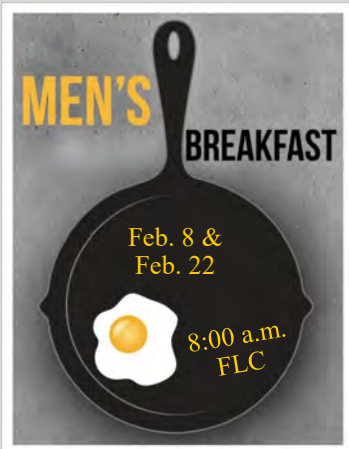
Jesse Smith became our Lead Pastor 6 years ago today. Be sure to let Pastor Jesse know how much he is loved & appreciated!



**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 3
12:00 -5:00 PM**

CRAFTER'S CORNER FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Scrapbooking and all other crafting welcome (or just come and chat). Contact Debbie Randolph for more details.




**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18
12:00 PM**

WOMEN'S BOOKWORM CAFÉ YOUTH ROOM

Book to be reviewed:
Shelter
by Robin Merrill

Love God, Love Louisburg, Serve the World

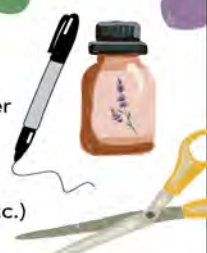


a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.


What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16

Hand greeting

17	18	19

Male adult

21	22



8	2	16	13	4	6	2	19	5			
17	9	2	5	19	5	12	6	7	19	5	4
13	15	6	2	19	20	6	7	19	14	4	
13	15	8	2	16	18	15	16				
8	2	16	13	23	10	1	14	21			

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV



SUNDAYS
(SECOND SERVICE ONLY)
KIDS' KONNECTION
KIDS K THRU 5TH GRADE



YOUTH GROUP
(GRADES 6-12)
WEDNESDAYS
6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Don't miss food, friends and fun as we explore what the Bible has to say to us today.



AWANA
THURSDAYS
6:15 PM-7:50 PM
KIDS AGE 3 THRU 6TH GRADE
A VBS like experience every
Thursday evening
Fun, Bible Lessons,
Bible Memorization

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!!
Check with Pastor Kami to see where you can help 816-916-KAMI (5264).

FIRST BAPTIST BAKERY & BUFFET

Have you found a new recipe you would like to share, or even a tried and true one? Please turn it in to the church office. Thanks.

CHRISTMAS FUDGE [MAY ALSO BE EATEN AT VALENTINE'S DAY, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, MOTHER'S DAY...] from the kitchen of Ava White

- 1) Mix in heavy 2 quart pan:
 2 ½ cups sugar
 ¾ cup evaporated milk
 16 large marshmallows
 (or 160 miniature marshmallows)
 ¼ cup butter
- 2) Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat to a boil—mixture will be bubbling all over top.
- 3) Boil and stir 5 minutes more and take off heat.
- 4) Stir 1 cup chocolate chips (approx. 6 oz) in until completely melted
- 5) Stir in 1 cup nuts (pecans or walnuts) and 1 tsp vanilla
- 6) Spread in buttered pan—8x8 square
- 7) Refrigerate until firm.



ABW Bible Book of the Month

Ruth

The Book of Ruth opens with a famine in Bethlehem during the time of the judges, which causes a man named Elimelech and his family to move to the neighboring land of Moab.

Elimelech's wife, Naomi, and their two sons settle in Moab, where the sons marry Moabite women: Ruth and Orpah. However, Elimelech and both of Naomi's sons die, leaving Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah as widows. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem after hearing that the famine has ended.

Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry, but Ruth refuses, famously declaring, "Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth's loyalty to Naomi is unwavering, and the two women return to Bethlehem together.

Upon arriving in Bethlehem, Ruth goes to glean in the fields to provide food for herself and Naomi. She happens to glean in the field of Boaz, a wealthy relative of Naomi's late husband. Boaz notices Ruth's hard work and kindness toward Naomi, and he ensures that she is treated well by his workers. Naomi recognizes Boaz as a potential "kinsman-redeemer," a relative who could marry Ruth to preserve the family line and provide for them.

Naomi devises a plan for Ruth to approach Boaz at night on the threshing floor, a risky but culturally recognized way to ask Boaz to fulfill his role as a kinsman-redeemer. Ruth follows Naomi's instructions, and Boaz, surprised but honored, agrees to take on the responsibility.

Boaz and Ruth marry, and they have a son, Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David. The final verses of the book highlight the genealogical connection between Ruth and David, underscoring the book's larger theme of divine providence—how God works through ordinary events to bring about extraordinary outcomes, including the lineage of the future Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Book of Ruth offers rich themes of loyalty, kindness, and redemption. It portrays the importance of faithfulness in relationships, the willingness to step outside one's comfort zone, and the way God can work through people's actions to bring about His purposes.



November 2024

Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga - ABC Global Servants in Dominican Republic

Dear Loved Ones, Greetings,

Please let me introduce you to our newly hired team member at the eye clinic in charge of stock management. She is Lourdwidge Etienne and she is a graduate of our university in Limbe in 2021, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Finding a job in today's Haiti is not an easy matter. One needs to have strong connections and or graduate with very good notes to dream of having a good paying job. Lourdwidge has been looking for a job for almost three years. Lately when we met, she explained her misery looking for a job. We talked for two days and in connection with the rest of the staff, we decided to try her in managing our stock, which has been one of our administration weaknesses. She is already one month in and doing fine.

Our new electrician, Leley, is a trusted friend who struggled to finish elementary and high schools. He told his parents that he was going to become an electrician to help his family financially. Nobody believed him at that time. In the professional school, Leley was an A student. After graduation, the young man is now managing the electricity in big buildings around the city of Cap-Haitian. Well-trained professionals with good morals are rare. Let us all praise God that the young Leley has accepted to help us at the eye clinic!!

Many people are asking if the church building is coming along fine. We say "Thank You" to each and every one of you for accepting to be part of what we will be a Baptist legacy in this remote corner of the Dominican Republic. Heavy rains and lack of funding slows progress but does not stop it. God is being presented to the people without the new building at a time when they are in need of encouragement.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 3 Francis Busch
Rosemary Golden

February 5 Julia Stegeman
Joann Hook

February 12 Jackie Mack

February 14 Teri Henningsen


February 18 Hope Anderson
Barbara Kerr

February 25 Jordan Smith (Jesse's wife)

February 27 Julie Bear
John Clark

Patty & Andy Sauber—February 22
Debbie & Richard Francy—February 25
Allison Apple & Charley Puhr—Feb. 29





A PRAYER FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP **8:15 AM & 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** **9:45 AM BIBLE CLASSES**

Feb. 18—Deadline for March Newsletter

in person **ATTENDANCE**

	<u>8:15</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Jan. 5	Services cancelled—weather	
Jan 12	63	46
Jan. 19	52	54
Jan. 26	One Service—103	



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
 12:15 PM - Deaconesses

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
 6:30 PM - Deacons

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 7:00 PM - Christian Education &
 Trustee Boards

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
 7:00 PM - Building Committee

Finance Committee scheduled as needed

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

Wouldn't it be great to keep the Operation Christmas Child spirit going all year long? We can! It's simple. It's convenient, and it's relatively painless! All you do is set your mind up to build online boxes each month all year long! They only cost \$25 (the price of one meal out or a few treats at the movie) and you don't even have to shop or pack the box!

Think about it. Would you truly miss \$25 each month? I know I spend that much on silly things, things that don't last, all the time. The impact of these boxes is eternal.

So, I challenge you to join me this year in sending at least one box each month. Use this QR code or the link on the church website to get started. ~KAMI

(As of 1/27, as a church we have done 9 boxes towards the 2025 goal of 100 boxes; can we do even more?)



Love God, Love Louisburg, Serve the World