



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



As Pastor Josh Greene pointed out on the first Sunday of the New Year, we have made it into a new quarter century. There are now adults in our church who have no recollection of the 20th century and children who have no memory of life before the Covid pandemic. Life moves fast and changes so quickly, but we know that our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Regardless of the year, he rules over all and his kingdom remains steadfast. He has established his church to be the primary means through which his kingdom flourishes on Earth, and we hope that you will be a part of that work at FBC Fairdale as we move into 2026.

First, there are many opportunities for you to grow in your knowledge of God's word. We offer a number of Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Additionally, our mid-week Men's and Ladies' Bible studies are resuming this week and will be studying the book of Hebrews. College and young adult Bible study is on Sundays after the evening service, and there are classes for preschool, elementary and middle/high school students on Wednesday evenings.

Secondly, there are many opportunities for you to grow in your service towards others. Food pantry, kitchen, nursery, kids, youth, visitation, music and media - these are just a few of the many ministries

that serve our church family and community. There are so many volunteer opportunities available to help connect you deeper into the life of our church. If you are looking for a way to serve, reach out to one of our pastors or the church office and they will help you find a place where your gifts and talents can be used for God's glory.

As you move through life, embrace the words of Paul to the Ephesians and "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." May your years be filled with moments of learning about and serving God and may our church always help you towards that end.

Remember your God: Ruler of Heaven and Earth

Jake Beattie | Pastor

Happy New Year church! I hope you all have had a great start to 2026. We truly live in such fascinating times. In our pockets we carry with us a device that allows us to know what is happening in every corner of the world, in real time! What a wild concept! I know this is how we have been living for many years now, but it is still a wild thought to consider.

When I see the news such as the capture of the Venezuelan president this past week and I'm learning about it in real time I usually take it for granted that I am able to be informed about what is happening AS it is happening. There are lots of times I have thought it can't be good for us to have this constant access to information. We are bombarded with new information. If we don't take intentional breaks from our phones and computers, there is no stop to this cycle.

This past Sunday I began a study through the book of Daniel with my Sunday School class. We looked mostly at an overview of the book and some of the major themes. One of those major themes in Daniel is God being the ruler of the kingdom of man. We see hints of this in chapter 1 where we are told, "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand." From the beginning of the book we see God as sovereign over the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem.

Fast forward to chapter 4 and we see King Nebuchadnezzar receive a second dream in which God is revealing to him that unless he humbles himself, God will humble him. In the interpretation that Daniel provides for the dream he tells Nebuchadnezzar, "and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." The dream is to make it clear to Nebuchadnezzar, and to you and me reading this book thousands of years later, that the Most High, God, rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

This has been a fresh reminder to me that has comforted me a great deal. As we have constant access to all that is happening in the world we can quickly become overwhelmed by it all. Seeing presidents be captured and imprisoned. Seeing so much fraud being exposed within our own government. Seeing the continued war between Russia and Ukraine, along with so many other alarming headlines. It's easy to feel discouraged and downtrodden. We need regular reminders that no matter how chaotic things seem to be in our world right now, God in heaven, the Most High, rules the kingdom of men, and he gives it to whom he will.

God has not lost even a fraction of control on the world. Psalm 115 reminds us, "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases." No matter what may come in 2026, remember that our God is in the heavens, and he rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will.

New Year and New Life in Christ

Mary Catherine Anderson | Director of Nursery

There's something about the start of a new calendar year that feels like a chance to make a fresh start on personal habits or growth. I've learned over the years that strict New Year's Resolutions don't usually stick around very long, but that doesn't mean that I can't approach 2026 with intention and thoughtfulness about how I want to live and some changes I would like to see in my daily habits.

In Ephesians 4, Paul talks about what new life in Christ looks like for a believer. He encourages the church in Ephesus to no longer live in the ways they did when they were unbelievers with darkened understanding, hardened hearts, and callous behavior. He reminds them that they have been instructed to "put off" the old self and "put on" the new self. While we have been justified once and for all through the death of Jesus Christ, the process of our salvation continues as we are sanctified further into the image of Christ. We must continually be putting off our old selves and putting on the new life in Christ as we grow. Therefore, I firmly believe that changing "bad" habits is about much more than stopping behavior. We must be looking for ways that we can replace that behavior with things that glorify God and draw us closer to him. Below are three areas where I am seeking to put off the old self and put on the new self in 2026.

Put off worry, put on prayer

Philippians 4:6 instructs us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Paul directly tells us to put off worry and to put on prayer. When I worry about finances, I can pray for trust and provision. When I worry about parenting, I can pray for wisdom and patience. When I worry about the future, I can pray for my faith in God's sovereignty to be strengthened.

Put off scrolling, put on scripture

Psalm 119 spends 176 verses talking about all the benefits of engaging with God's word. In verses 36 & 37 the psalmist says, "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways." While social media may not be entirely worthless (although I'm starting to have my doubts), it is definitely distracting and generally not very encouraging. Going into this year, I want to turn my eyes and my heart away from the next video and turn them towards God's word and the life that it gives.

Put off busyness, put on stillness

In the book of Luke, we find the story of Jesus visiting the sisters Mary and Martha. Martha is busy and distracted by serving, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to his teaching. Jesus admonishes Martha, reminding her that Mary has chosen "the good portion" that cannot be taken away. While there are many responsibilities in my life that I can't completely ignore, I want to move away from being busy, distracted, overcommitted, and trying to prove my worth by how much I can get done. Instead I want to move towards a place of stillness before God (Ps. 46:10) and abiding in the love of Christ (John 15:9).

I would encourage you to spend some time thinking about and praying through some areas where you would like to see growth in your own life. Maybe get some input from a trusted friend or church member. Use that to determine what you might be able to put off and what you can put on instead - remembering that through it all, "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6).