



Messenger

SUMMER

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER | FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH | EL DORADO, KANSAS

Youth News

Super Summer camp always impacts the youth—and the leaders!!! Please be praying before, during and after camp for us all!!

Camp is June 16-20. The following students will be attending: Angelina, Sophia, Shelbi, Clarissa, Jayden, Jaylynn, Jared, Anthoney, Ben, Aidan, Chris, and Jacee. Cory and Lisa will be leading them.

We are planning a fundraiser. If you feel God leading you to give to help these teenagers spend a week hearing from God, let Lisa know!

Lisa Crook,
Youth Leader

Pre-Teen News

Three of my pre-teen girls were baptized in May. Two will be going to camp this year. I'm so excited for what the future brings for us as I teach them more about our beautiful Savior. We have two that will be promoting to the youth group next year. We are planning a lock-in on July 25th, 6pm to 7am.

Thank you,
Janna Davis

June Volunteers

	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3
5/25	John, Laura	Johnie G.	John	Guest	Keith A.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Janna D.	Laura L.
6/1	Jeff, Laura	John M.	Janna	Brickley	Karen L.	Cara S.	Rod L	Ulala	Marsha P
6/8	TBD, Lisa	John B.	Sheila	Brickley	Rod	Cara S.	Rod L	John T.	Karen D.
6/15	TBD, Laura	David C.	Deb	Brickley	Julie H.	Cara S.	Rod L	Susan F.	Janna D.
6/22	TBD, Lisa	Joe L.	John	Guest	Keith A.	Cara S.	Rod L	Deb S.	Johnie G.
6/29	TBD, Laura	Joe R.	Janna	Reinert	Johnie G.	Karen L.	Rod L	Laura L.	Marsha P



The Pastor's Pen



Happy Summer Church! I love you Church!

Wow! What a difference a year or five or seven makes! One year ago we were wandering through what seemed like a tabernacle haul through a desert land! The great church fire of 2024 is a year in our rear view window and it does us good to take

a look at its place in our church history. But let me jump back a few years, seven to be exact.

This Father's Day marks the end of my seventh year being your pastor. You remember my battle with the Lord about what I thought was His plan for me and how He made absolutely clear that this was where He was sending me to build the kingdom. It was a crucial time in my life and in the life of our church. Almost immediately we started to see steady growth and soon we had begun discussions about what we were going to do about having enough space for worshippers if the trajectory continued.

Then, just as we were getting excited about the future expansion of our ministry, the pandemic put a halt to all our momentum. Attendance and offerings both dropped significantly and we had to respond with concerns about survival. Attendance was down around 60, less than half of what we were peaking. We lost people to the pandemic due to whichever decisions we would make, elderly caution, and even death from the pandemic. We struggled through that very difficult season of about 3 years.

Then momentum began to come back as people returned and ministries started reaching out again. New people started checking us out. Attendance began to climb again, getting us to almost 90. Then, just as we were getting ready for our largest outreach of the year, a silly fire canceled our Vacation Bible School and put us again on survival watch. Where are we going to meet? How much will this cost? How will we be able to do ministry and grow? How are we going to be able to communicate as a mobile church? There were so very

many questions and challenges.

In spite of the challenges, we kept loving each other and doing ministry as best we could. God provided much in places to meet, shared VBS, and new people finding us even out of our normal place of ministry. In fact, when we came back to our facility in October of 2024, we did so stronger than what we expected! Our attendance from that point has been consistently over 90 as new people we met over the summer transitioned back with us.

Momentum has only been growing since then! Since Easter, we have had two services with at least 131 people here! We are meeting new people every week! Our March new member's class had 7 participants and the upcoming one has 7 more family units expected!

The most glorious part is that the waters of baptism are stirring once again! Since December, (by count at this time of writing,) we have baptized 13 people! Family, that is over 10 percent of our church attendance! And more are already on the way for this summer! God is moving mightily! People are starting again to seek the Lord! The stories of His working are lifting our spirits nearly every week! Could it be that we are on the verge of an awakening in our city? Oh, Heaven, Please!!

The recent workings of God only make me dream for more in the future! I never get tired of being late to sing the songs in worship because I have to get dried off and changed after baptisms. (By the way, hasn't our worship ministry growth been an amazing blessing?) I keep coming to our worship gatherings with great expectations that I will get to see God do something awesome in somebody's life! I am feeling the wonderful pressure to start planning for our future growth again! Do we need to start talking about multiple worship services or a building expansion? Do we need to bring in a youth pastor? What have we not even begun to ask that God will require of us?

Keep praying church! Keep loving each other! Keep inviting! And talk about what God is showing you about what we need to do!

Pastor David

The Deacon's Corner

Greetings Church Family.

Recently my Sunday School class started a series of lessons based upon Henry Blackaby's study *Experiencing God*. Many of you may have participated in this study at some point in your past, but if you haven't, I would like to share with you a powerful statement from the study. Blackaby states that "God continually pursues a relationship with you, and He invites you to join Him and His Work." Imagine the privilege we have as children of God to join Him and His work. God is revealing His work to us right before our eyes. The Holy Spirit is stirring amongst His people at First Southern of 200 Oil Hill Road. People are getting saved and the baptismal waters have been needed for several Sundays in a row. New couples and families are joining the fellowship of believers. Wow! Such opportunities

for us as believers to join God and His Work.

Members and those who call FSBC their church home are assigned to a Deacon. The Deacon serves as another trusted Christian brother in addition to the Pastor that individuals and families may reach out to in a time of need. Our church follows the Biblical pattern of Deacon servanthood found in the early New Testament church. We pray and meet with families as called upon and assist the Pastor as necessary. We want our families to know that we can be called upon at any time when prayer or counsel is needed. Sometimes our Pastor is not available or may be tied up with other matters. Our calling is to help when needed. Please reach out to us. Accompanying this article is a copy of the Deacon family list. I must be honest. Our Deacon's updated it

in late April, but it is already needing to be updated again. Please look for your name. If you do not see it, please get with myself, our Pastor, or Laura in the office to get your information included in the church directory. You do not have to be a member to be on the list. This is for those who call FSBC their church home. The list contains the phone numbers of each Deacon. If you call upon your assigned Deacon and do not immediately get a response, please leave a voicemail. If it is an emergency, you most certainly may call another Deacon on the list. Again, there will be further updates to this list. Stay tuned to future articles in the newsletter.

Blessings To All,

Rod Luehrs

Chairman of the Deacons

Joe Leibbrandt 620-554-4233	Joe Reinert 316-210-1748	John Brickley 316-371-1898	Rod Luehrs 316-323-5660
Baca, David & Christine	Ballard, Susan	Axtell, Sheila	Anderson, Keith & Chenowith, Tiffany
Baca, Linnie	Bishop, Todd and Becky	Borger, Lawanda	Baker, Joanie & Ellis
Bugner, Isaac & Emily	Gragg, Johnie & Donna	Branaman, Greg	Boss, Norma
Drake, Phil & Karen	Griggs, Marsha	Cross, Robert & Anne	Brickley, John & Christine
Kruesel, Dani	Herbel, Larry	Dewitt, Jerry & Sandy	Crook, David & Lisa
Luehrs, Rod & Laura	Huston, Bryan	Fyffe, David & Susan	Davis, Janna & Aidan
Mitchell, Robert & Carol	Jorn, Carolyn	Gonsalves, Mary & Dean, Sheri	Diffendal, Bryan, Cheri, and EJ
Poe, Mark & Starla	Leibbrandt, Joe, Karen & Pat	Hill, David & Julie	Gill, Cory & Jessica
Prewit, Ulala	Moore, Pat & Susan	Jones, Marilyn	Meister, John & Jessica Zumalt
Reinert, Joe & Debbie	Stewart, Rick & Cara	Lafferty, Jeff & Jennifer	Piha, Marsha
Simpson, Joey & Robyn	Tarrant, Kevin & Julie	Moody, Mary Lou	Rodriguez, Linda
Smith, Jan	Wise, Glenna	Mattice, Stephen & Paula	Sherman, Dan & Brenda
Throckmorton, John	Wright, Nathan & Nancy	Nielsen, Tyson & Penny	Spencer, Deb
Thomas, Zach & O'Connor, Allena	Trumpower, John	O'Roke, Katie & Smith, Patrick	Stewart, Marsha
Thomas, Zara		Thompson, Deedee	Webb, Phillip & Nicole

Operation Christmas Child

Have you ever thought about helping with Operation Christmas Child other than just in November? There are opportunities to help share about this ministry year-round. I serve as a year-round volunteer by coordinating the drop-off at our church, and I am a community relations team member; which reaches out to different community groups and tries to get them involved in packing boxes.

Here are the different roles and a short description of each:
Do you jump at the chance to inspire people?

Then become a **Leadership Team Member**.

Leadership Team Members build local teams of volunteers through:

- Recruiting, selecting, training, and leading volunteers.
- Shepherding and rallying team members.
- Vision casting and coordinating team operations

Do you like to encourage people in churches?

Then become a **Church Relations Team Member**.

Church Relations Team members form relationships with local Christian congregations to:

- Inspire them to catch the Great Commission vision of Operation Christmas Child to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Mobilize and equip them to participate or increase their participation in the project.
- Encourage them to use the project as a way to share the Gospel locally as they promote community shoebox packing involvement.

Do you have the gift of planning? Then become a **Logistics Team Member**.

Logistics Coordinators and Drop-off Locations work together to:

- Support and expand shoebox gift collection in their communities.
- Ensure an inviting and efficient collection of shoebox gifts that serves as a Gospel witness to the community.
- Assist in goal development and growth planning for area shoebox collection efforts.

Do you love to intercede in prayer?

Then become a **Prayer Team Member**.

Prayer Team Members encourage local individuals, churches, and groups to provide intercessory prayer through:

- Recruiting local prayer team members and enlisting local church support.
- Distributing ministry prayer requests among the team and other area prayer partners.
- Sharing prayer needs and promoting participation at community events, shoebox drop-off locations, churches, and other local gatherings.

Do you like to help get teams organized? Then become an **Administrative Support Team Member**. Administrative Support Team Members use their organizational skills to:

- Manage data and resources for an Area Team.
- Field local inquiries, connecting people to the appropriate team members and project resources.
- Organize and update Area Team information, including meeting minutes, team rosters, and local volunteer contacts.

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

Then become a **Community Relations Team Member**.

Community Relations Team Members are ambassadors for Operation Christmas Child in their communities to:

- Engage and equip businesses and civic organizations to become actively involved in the project.
- Speak to community groups about the project.
- Host or participate in events to spread the word about Operation Christmas Child

Do you like to spread the word about shoebox gifts?

Then become a **Media Support Team Member**.

Media Support Team Members promote the message of Operation Christmas Child in their communities by:

- Publicizing the ministry through local print and radio outlets.
- Sharing stories of local involvement and coordinating area media coverage of them.
- Providing promotional resources to encourage community participation in the project.

Do you have a heart for outreach to students?

Then become a **Student Relations Team Member**.

Student Relations Team Members engage young people to participate in the project through:

- Speaking to local schools, universities, and student organizations about how to be involved in Operation Christmas Child.
- Coordinating local student-focused project events such as ministry fairs, multimedia presentations, and packing parties.
- Encouraging local campuses, organizations, and businesses to partner with students in shoebox packing efforts.

Please prayerfully consider how God would have you to give to this ministry, donating items, donating money for items to be purchased, packing your own shoebox (online or by hand), or becoming a year-round volunteer. Thank you for your generous support of OCC (Operation Christmas Child).

Karen Leibbrandt

FSBC Kid's Ministry
Summer 2025
First Southern Baptist Church
200 Oil Hill Rd, El Dorado, KS
316-321-3465
Bus 316-452-3594
Paula Mattice 316-258-6596

Hello Summer!

What a blessed year of Kidz Club we had this year.

We have had amazing discussions and activities about being missionaries for Jesus and even did some fun projects for Operation Christmas Child that will be used in the Christmas boxes in November! I encourage you to find ways to get your children involved in activities/projects that let them share God's love with others. Please feel free to contact me for ideas in this area. FSBC is always working on some missions projects and would appreciate help.

We have also been excited about all the children being baptized here at First Southern Baptist Church. God is at work! Congratulations to Landon, Logan, Anastasia, Shelbi, Sophia, Clarissa and Lauren! I'm excited to see what God does in your lives.

By the time this letter reaches you, VBS will be in full swing. It is our biggest children's outreach of the year and we look forward to it every year. Please pray for open hearts.

I am working on an overnight campout for the kids this summer and will keep you posted when the plans are completed.

Thank you again for sharing your children with us this year.

In His Service,
Ms. Paula

Simple Mission Projects To **Do With Your Kids**

In addition to helping those that are in need, serving others will teach your kids empathy, responsibility, and team work. Win-win! Feel free to tweak these ideas to fit your family.

- Make cards and deliver them to a local hospital or nursing home.
- Assemble ready to go packs for the homeless.
- Bake goodies for a hurting friend or neighbor.
- Offer to mow a yard for someone that can't.
- Donate and/or help with the Bread of Life food give away at church.
- Knit or sew for others.
- Donate to the Blessing Box in the church yard. (check this newsletter for suggestions)
- Read to the elderly at a local nursing home.
- Offer to walk dogs at a local shelter.

Remember, the idea is to find a need that your child can help with and share the love of Jesus at the same time.

The Sunday School classes are currently learning the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13. We will be celebrating with a Sunday Sundae at Braums this summer! Date to be determined.

Outreach

Bread of Life is handing out a minimum of 15 boxes each time we meet. We still need food donations to continue to fill Bread of Life boxes. Please also continue to place non-perishable items in the Blessing Box. (List for B.O.L. and blessings box included below.)

The Outreach team will get together in June to start talking about ideas for the Christmas parade. If you would like to join the

Outreach team, please let myself or another Outreach member know. Team members are Pastor David, Paula M., Karen & Joe L, Karen D, and Susan F.

Thank you,
Janna Davis
Outreach

"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry

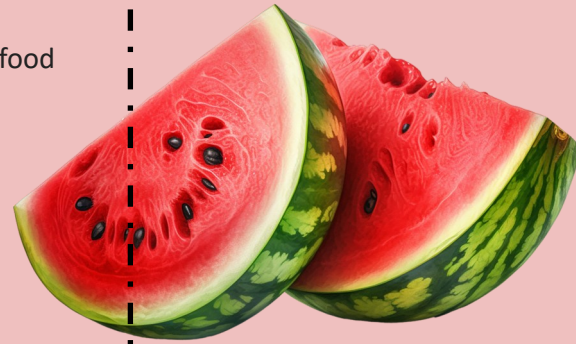
Psalm 146: 5-7

Food Pantry Grocery List

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Rice
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Ramen noodles

Blessing Box items

- Crackers
- Nuts
- Jerky
- Ready-to-eat pop top canned food
- Instant coffee
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Brushes/combs
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Baby wipes
- Feminine products
- Socks



July Volunteers

	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3
7/6	TBD, Lisa	Joe R.	Shiela	Reinert	Rod	John B.	Johnie G.	Ulala P.	Karen D.
7/13	TBD, Laura	Rod L.	Deb	Reinert	Julie H.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Susan F.	Janna D.
7/20	TBD, Lisa	Johnie G.	John	Guest	Karen L.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Rod L.	Laura L
7/27	TBD, Laura	John M.	Janna	Brickley	Keith A.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	Marsha P
8/3	TBD, Lisa	John B.	Sheila	Brickley	Rod	Cara S.	Deb S.	Ulala P.	Karen D.
8/10	TBD, Laura	David C.	Deb	Brickley	Julie H.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Susan F.	Janna D.
8/17	TBD, Lisa	Joe L.	John	Guest	Karen L.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Rod L.	Laura L
8/24	TBD, Laura	Joe R.	Janna	Reinert	Keith A.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Laura L.	Marsha P

JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 5 pm VBS Kickoff Event & Family Game Night	2	3	4 Madylanne Wint 6:30 New Members' Class	5	6	7 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
Vacation Bible School 9-Noon (2nd-6th)						
8 Potluck, "A-Team", VBS Program	9	10	11	12	13	14 Susan Fyffe Flag Day
Pastor Out of Office for SBC Annual Meeting (Dallas) (9th-11th)						
15 Fathers' Day	16	17 Nathaniel Hill, Pastor's Anniversary Here (2018)	18 6:30 New Members' Class	19 David Hill 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	20 Johnie Gragg	21 Bread of Life Food Ministry (10 -11:30)
YOUTH CAMP (16-20)						
22 Mission Dignity Sunday	23	24	25	26	27 Sophia Baca	28 Brenda Sherman, Ellis Baker, Tyson & Penny Nielsen, Ellis & Joanie Baker
29 Youth Sunday	30	Operation Christmas Child Shopping Lists June: Stuffed Animals Make sure they are new and will not take up too much space in a shoebox. If you have some nice, gently used stuffed animals, make sure they are clean . July: Clothing items Tops and bottoms Socks Undergarments (underwear, bras) Shoes / Flip Flops				

June:
 Stuffed Animals
 Make sure they are **new** and will not take up too much space in a shoebox. If you have some nice, gently used stuffed animals, make sure they are **clean**.
July:
 Clothing items
 Tops and bottoms
 Socks
 Undergarments (underwear, bras)
 Shoes / Flip Flops

JULY 2025-AUG 16 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Larry Herbel Office Closed	5 Mary Mehaffey, Sheila Axtell Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
		Staff Planning Retreat Office Closed				
6	7	8	9 Larry Huebner	10	11 D.J. Baca	12 Pastor OUT OF TOWN 12-18 ??
13 "A-Team"	14	15 Kevin & Julie Tarrant Anniversary	16 Janna Davis	17 Larry & Kat Huebner 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	18 John & Christine Brickley Youth Lock-in	19 Youth Lock-in
Pastor OUT OF TOWN 12-18??						
Laura OUT OF TOWN 15-22/ Paula out of town 14-20						
20 Laura OUT OF TOWN 15-22	21	22	23 by 9:00 am Newsletter Items Due	24 Cindy Rhodes	25 Pre-Teen Lock-in 6pm Friday to 7am Sat.	26 Pre-Teen Lock-in 6pm Friday to 7am Sat.
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
3 Promotion Sunday	4	5	6	7 Rod & Laura Luehrs USD 490 Back to School Bash	8 Church Movie Night	9 Mary Gonsalves Back to School
10 Hope Brickley, Hannah Brickley "A-Team" (BYOL) Kids to new Sunday School classes), Youth Kick-Off Event	11	12	13 by 9:00 am Newsletter Items Due First Day of School	14	15 SCASB Praise Sing	16 Bread of Life Food Ministry (10-11:30)