

First Southern
Baptist Church
Messenger

DECEMBER 2025

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH

200 Oil Hill RD

El Dorado KS 67042

316-321-3465

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The Deacon's Corner

Greetings Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, kind thoughts, cards, and well wishes extended to me and my family during the last several weeks. My Dad was a believer and trusted in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. We would never wish him back as we know he is experiencing the full joy of Heaven that is promised to all of us who place our faith in Christ, but we miss him just the same. The night of Dad's passing, Pastor David visited with my wife and I and encouraged us to look for the beauty in what we were about to experience during the week leading up to the funeral. I wasn't quite sure what he meant, but I think I got a taste of what Pastor David was describing.

For weeks and months, as

Dad's health had deteriorated, I agonized at times on how best to pray for Dad. In the weeks prior to Dad's final downturn, I even found myself praying "that if it be in the Lord's will," that the Lord would take him home. Dad had already settled the matter in his heart. He knew where his eternal home lay. When Hospice told us that he was on a 5-7 day watch, we knew the end was near, but Dad lingered beyond that time. In my mind, I didn't have any answers, but I knew that I had to trust God for the outcome. Waiting with my mother near Dad's bedside was difficult to say the least, but in those moments, we found solace in remembering God's faithfulness. On the day that he passed, I prayed with my family during the noon meal that God would take Dad in His timing, even that day

if it be His will. Dad passed away approximately 6 hours after that prayer.

Later in the week during a quiet time, one of those moments of beauty that Pastor had mentioned became apparent to me. God was faithful in answering prayer. As difficult as it is to express, I believe that God prolonged Dad's time to allow us as a family to experience what was about to happen. Members of my family were able to see and talk to him before he passed. Fond memories were shared. Even in death, we were reminded that God is in control.

Blessings To All

Rod Luehrs

Chairman of the Deacons





The Pastor's Pen



Greetings, Church! I love you, Church! And Thank You, Church!

I want to thank you for all you did for Lisa and I last month for Pastor Appreciation and Lisa's recovery from surgery. We both so very much appreciate the time off for me to nurse her that first week, the meals you brought, and your expressions of love you have for me as your pastor. It is truly a joy to serve this loving family of believers we call our church.

I am also very thankful for the ways God has been working in our family lately. I pray this Thanksgiving season has you also expressing thanks toward heaven for the many blessings in your life.

The Bible teaches us to start our worship with thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name." Whenever you think about coming to church any Sunday, do you ever use your walk from your car to the front doors to start your praise by thanking God for your opportunity to freely meet with your church family to join the Kingdom chorus of praise and delight in the Word of God? That might change the worship for all of us.

However, our thanksgiving doesn't just start our worship, it is to permeate our walk with God. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Everything?

What am I to find to thank God for when I am sick or struggling or depressed or persecuted? Perhaps more than my feeble mind can imagine unless I give it some practice. Such a discovery might be worth the effort!

Anyway, may your thankfulness continue to grow as you express it more and more for the more and more blessings you count each day.

On another matter, I need to tell you something, Church. We have been in budget preparation season and have realized that the last three months our giving is way down and our expenses have exceeded our receipts fairly significantly. The situation does not give our Finance Team a lot of confidence that our budget proposal can be met, especially if we hire a youth pastor soon, unless God does a mighty work. When it comes to funding the church, my adopted philosophy is to trust God and tell the people. I am not going to try to guilt you into giving more, appeal for special funding mechanisms, or otherwise deviate from encouraging the faithfulness of the people of God to give and to pray for our church. If you don't know how to pray, how can you do so effectively? So now you know. Please pray.

Finally, let me be among the first to wish you a very Merry Christmas!

As I have told you in the past, this is my favorite time of year! One of my favorite parts of the season is the sound of bells ringing everywhere you go! *Ding, dong, ding, dong, ring-a-ling-a-ling, and jingle all the way!* I can almost hear the carols now!

Bells always draw the attention of the hearer, so my theme for Christmas this year is "Come on, Ring those Bells!" I want our attention to be drawn to the amazing news that the angels heralded with our Savior's birth. I want the attention of our community drawn (by our invitation) to the ringing in our hearts as we sing our carols and proclaim the message of the Gospel that Christ has come! I want us to take the jingle of Christmas joy to our shut-ins and nursing homes on Wednesday, the 17th. Come on, Church! Ring those Bells!

We will also have the privilege of hosting a handbell Christmas concert from Rose Hill worshippers on Sunday, December 14 at 3 p.m. Let us not forget the wonderful night of worship by candlelight on Christmas Eve at 6:30!

So let us ring it loud and clear so that all may hear: "Jesus is the King, born for you and me!" Let us all try to fill the church this Christmas!

Thankful for you, Church!
Pastor David

Colossians 1:3-4 ³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Update

Well, another successful shoebox collection season has come and gone. God is so good! Praise the Lord for His goodness in providing us with the resources to pack all the boxes we did.

This month we are focusing on praying for all the boxes that have been collected. Pray that they reach their final destination without any hiccups and that each one impacts not only the child that receives it but also their family and friends with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks again, church family, for your generosity. We couldn't do this work without you. ***Remember, Christmas sales are good chances to snag good deals on items needed for next year's boxes.***

Here is an inspiring story about how a Samaritan's Purse outreach event that featured the Good News and a gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoebox and how it drew Southeast Asian children and their families to the Savior.

Hands clasped, heads bowed, children whisper their first words to the Creator they've just learned about. This moment of solemn surrender happens at tens of thousands of Operation Christmas Child outreach events across the globe each year.

Watching one such prayer in his home country of Cambodia was especially meaningful to a boy named Samay*. It's only been a year since he was in the same position, receiving a shoebox gift and hearing of a God who loved him so much He sent His only Son to die on a cross for his sins.

Dressed from head to toe in vibrant pink, his mother, Bopha*, sits behind him, equally reverent, thinking back on all that the year has held for her family. Samay is the youngest of three and the only child

still living at home. He's also the only one who saw the battle taking place inside of her and spoke life into her in a way no one else could, all thanks to his newfound faith.

"Samay told me to be courageous and to be strong in the Lord. He told me to go to church, to pray for him to grow in faith, and to have love so that he can teach other kids about Jesus," Bopha said. "I'm so joyful that my son always encourages me to have strong faith in the Lord. I never thought that God would do this miracle in my life through my son."

Curiosity Leads to Transformation

When they attended the outreach event last year out of sheer curiosity, the last thing Bopha expected was that she would walk away stronger in her faith in Christ because of her son.

"I remember there was praise and worship that the children danced to and a Gospel presentation where the teacher spoke about the love of God," Bopha said. "Many children were there, and they wanted Jesus to be in their hearts."

This year, Samay is handing out shoebox gifts and his prayer as he gently sets each box in front of one of his friends is that they too would come to a saving faith in Jesus



Christ. Remembering the joy of opening his own gift last year, Samay delights in handing out Operation Christmas

Child shoebox gifts to other boys and girls.

He remembers well how God used the outreach event he attended a year ago in ways beyond what he or his family could have expected.

"Samay changed after the program, and he came back home," Bopha said. "He wanted to help around the house, he was full of joy, and he wanted to help people and also really wanted others to receive Jesus too."

His shoebox came with a picture of the family who sent it to him—an Australian couple and their two children—who signed the back with the phrase, "God loves you." A smile spread across his face as he looked at it, thinking of the people who prayed for him, without ever knowing where the box would end up, simply trusting that God had someone specific in mind for it.

"When Samay first came home with his gift I remember him being very excited," Bopha said. "He felt very blessed because in the past he didn't have a lot of new things, was struggling in school, and didn't have the right supplies. Coming home with new pens and new pencils, it's what he was praying for and what he was wanting. It helped him have the motivation to go to school. It also helped him feel like he fit in with people."

After he received his shoebox, Samay started attending *The Greatest Journey* discipleship course that Samaritan's Purse offers shoebox recipients. During the 12 Bible lessons, he accepted Christ into his heart and learned how to tell others about his Savior. Since beginning a personal relationship with Jesus, Samay's joy has been made new. He has led countless friends to Christ. A church meets across the field from their home—just out of sight. And

each afternoon after school, you can watch the village children racing on bikes and on foot to get there.

"Samay is very steadfast in his faith," said the church's founder, Pastor Nisay*. "He has been growing in the Lord and he has become a testimony to other people in his community. God is the only hope for him, so he tells everyone. What I pray for Samay is that God would touch his heart and use him."

Those prayers are already being answered as Samay disciples his mother, strengthening her faith.

Celebrating a Return to God

Christianity was not a new concept to Bopha. Her faith journey started many years ago and has been anything but easy; it's meant going against everything she knows, including her family, her culture, and her husband.

"I [previously] believed that when I didn't pray or I didn't worship

at the altar during the holy day, I would get sick," Bopha said.

"Throughout generations, my family, my parents, and ancestors used to practice this."

After her son's encounter with God through Operation Christmas Child, she has chosen life over death, fully abandoning her past beliefs to surrender to the only One who saves.

"My favorite thing about Jesus is the way that—no matter where we've been or what we've done—His love is there for us," Bopha said. "In moments where things are dark and things are hard, it's not just the way that God answers prayers personally but uses other people in our lives as Christians to encourage us and be there for us and always exceed our expectations."

Because he heard the Gospel when he received a shoebox gift, Samay now boldly proclaims what he believes and brings others along with

him.

"By the grace of God, not only Samay follows Jesus, but his mom accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior," Pastor Nisay said. "Their lives have been changed. They are so happy; they are joyous. We are thankful to the shoebox ministry."

Please pray that Samaritan's Purse would be able to bless millions more children around the world through the gift-filled shoeboxes collected this year. Money and items can be donated year round! You can also pack a shoebox online at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

Karen Leibbrandt,
OCC Coordinator

*Names changed to protect the innocent.

City Christmas Parade

Help us spread Christmas Cheer!

We are excited to take part in this year's Christmas Parade, and we need your help to make it extra sweet!

We are asking for donations of wrapped candy to hand out during the parade.

Please place your candy donations in the wagon.

Blessing Box Grocery List

- Crackers
- Nuts
- Jerky
- Ready-to-eat pop top canned food
 - Meat
 - Fruit
 - Soup
 - Ravioli
- Instant coffee
- Cereal
- Cereal/Granola bars
- Peanut Butter
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Brushes/Combs
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Bar Soap
- Baby Wipes
- Feminine products
- Socks
- Gloves
- Hot hands

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

Upcoming Dates:

Dec 17, 24, & 31 No Wed. Kidz Club
Dec 14 Children's Christmas Program
Dec 17 Evening Caroling & Cocoa
Dec 24 Christmas Eve service
Jan 1 Happy New Year
Jan 7 Kidz Club resumes

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This time of year is such a joyous blessing to be able to share our Savior's birth story with your children. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity. The students have spent the fall learning about the men and women in the Bible that stood strong in their faith (Hebrews 11).

We pray that each child has become stronger in their faith in Jesus and can look for opportunities to share the Christmas Story with someone that doesn't know the true story of Christmas. Visit a neighbor. Deliver a gift to someone not expecting one. Go caroling at a nursing home. Find a charity to make donations towards or better yet, find a charity that has areas of service that your family could do. Here at FSBC, we have packed and prayed over Operation Christmas Child boxes. There are always ways to make a difference for Jesus, no matter what your age. I'm praying for this time of year to be the opening for sharing about Jesus. I rejoice in the opportunity to pray for you all this season.

**In His Service,
Ms. Paula**

Please give prayer to the serious need of volunteers in the Children's Ministry Department.

- *Van Drivers (no CDL required)
- *Sunday School Teachers
- *Sunday School Aides
- *Wednesday Evening Teacher Aides



Wednesdays Kidz Club 6:30pm
Sunday School 9:30am Children's Church 11:00am

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Your Children's Ministry Crew:

Paula Mattice

Karen Leibbrandt

Marsha Piha

Susan Fyffe

Joe & Deb Reinert

John & Christine Brickley

Jessica Gill

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6

Volunteer Rotations

Date	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date
11/30	Jeff, Laura	Rod L.	Sheila	Guest	Karen L.	Johnie G.	Deb S.	Susan F.	Janna D.	11/26
12/7	John, Lisa	Johnie G.	John	Brickley	Susan & Pat M	Cara S.	Rod L	Deb S.	Laura L	12/3
12/14	Jeff, Laura	Joe L.	Deb	Brickley	Keith A.	Cara S.	Rod L	Laura L.	Marsha P	12/10
12/21	John, Lisa	John B.	Janna	Brickley	Johnie G.	John B.	Rod L	Ulala P.	Karen D.	12/17
12/28	Jeff, Laura	David C.	Sheila	Guest	Angelina	Cara S.	Rod L	Susan F.	Janna D.	12/24
1/4	John, Lisa	John M.	John	Reinert	Rod	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Deb S.	Laura L	12/31
1/11	Jeff, Laura	Joe R.	Deb	Reinert	Julie H.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	Marsha P	1/7
1/18	John, Lisa	Rod L.	Janna	Reinert	Susan & Pat M	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Ulala P.	Karen D.	1/14
1/25	Jeff, Laura	Johnie G.	Sheila	Guest	Jennifer L	Karen L.	Johnie G.	Susan F.	Janna D.	1/21
2/1	John, Lisa	Joe L.	John	Brickley	Johnie G.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Rod L.	Laura L	1/28

Wednesday Meal Prep Workers

1st Wed (12/3): Paula

2nd Wed (12/10): Susan F. & Marsha P

3rd Wed (12/17): NO PROGRAMS

4th Wed (12/24): NO PROGRAMS

5th Wed (12/31): NO PROGRAMS

1st Wed (01/07): Paula

2nd Wed (01/14): Susan F. & Marsha P

3rd Wed (01/21): Karen & Phil D

4th Wed (01/28): Mary G

FSBC Sisters of Faith

Please Come Join Us For our Second Annual Prayer Partner Cup Exchange and Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 5PM, FSBC



All ladies are welcome to come for fun and fellowship even if you do not wish to participate in the Prayer Partner Cup Exchange.

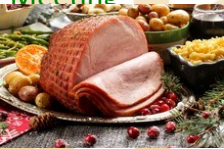
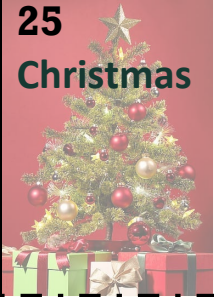
We will be serving finger foods. If you would like to bring a finger food to share, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

This will also be the time we will be doing our annual cookie exchange. Please bring enough cookies to exchange 2 cookies per person. We will let you know how many you should bring closer to the event date.

If you are going to be participating in the Prayer Cup exchange, please don't forget to grab a packet from Susan Fyffe beginning Nov. 23, 2025 with the instructions.

Looking forward to an evening of fun and fellowship!!!

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sundae Sunday	1	2	3	4	5 Carolyn Jorn, Mark Wint SCASB Christmas Dinner Ark City	6 David Crook Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon City 5:30 pm Christmas Parade
7 Holidays Meal, Annual Meeting 	8 Brian Huston	9	10 Paula Mattice by 9:00 am Newsletter Items Due Last Night of Programs	11 Penny Nielsen	12 Kinley Nielsen	13
14 Kids' Program 3pm Handbell Concert 5pm Women's Prayer Cup and Cookie Exchange 	15	16	17 Glenna Wise, Carol Mitchell Caroling and Cocoa	18 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	19	20 Mark & Melynda Wint
21 Susan Moore	22 Jerry & Sandy DeWitt	23	24 6:30 Candle- light Service 	25 Christmas 	26	27
Office Closed 24-Jan 2						
28 Dylan Davis	29 Pat Moore	30	31	1	2	3
Office Closed						



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Dylan Davis	29 Pat Moore	30	31	1 David Baca	2	3 Gunther Baca 9:30 am— Breakfast and undecorating party
Office Closed						
4	5 Sophie Simpson	6	7 Kevin Tarrant Wednesday night programs resume	8 Willie Spivey	10	11
11 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Soup, Salad & Dessert Potluck A-Team	12	13	14 by 9:00 am Newsletter Items due	15 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	16 Nathan and Nancy Wright	17 Gloria Tucker
18	19 MLK Day, Office Closed (No school)	20	21	22 Deb Reinert	23	24
25 Lisa Crook	26	27	28	29	30	31 John Meister

Sunday Nights 5pm
Starting in January

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Cost \$99.99, childcare provided
See John B. or Lisa with questions