



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER
EL DORADO FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Pastor's Pen

Greetings, Church! I Love You, Church!

Happy New Year, Church! It is time once again to wrap up the old year and think ahead to the one just ahead of us. The year 2025 saw many wonderful and challenging events for us all. While it is good to give thanks to God and remember all His wondrous works (see Psalm 107), it is also good to leave most of what is in the past behind and press on toward the tomorrow for which God is today preparing us (see Philippians 3:13). Certainly I continue to celebrate the 17 baptisms we witnessed last year, enough to earn us the Babe Sanderfer Evangelism award for the most in our association! Nonetheless, we look ahead with prayerful expectation that we will see more in 2026.

God is a forward-looking God. By that I do not mean that time means as much to Him as it does to us. He is already in our future, since He is not bound by time. Yet, as sovereign over

the affairs of humanity (which is bound in time), He continually and graciously offers a new tomorrow for those who will live to see it. His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). He has been faithfully encouraging, telling us that one day He will make all things right at the end of days (see almost every prophet). So, while time is of no concern to a God who knows the end from the beginning, He is compassionate and benevolent enough to His beloved created (who are always concerned with their future) that He promises certain things to give us hope instead of fear for our future. What a wonderful Father!

One interesting verse I think of when thinking about the coming year is Isaiah 43:19 "Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." God declares to His people that the ways He will deliver them will be something they have never seen before and instructed them to be

watching for it. Such a statement sure gets the imagination running wild with anticipation of things we want to see God do! Vanquish an enemy!

Political leaders that actually do what is right for the people! Miracles that demonstrate the validity and reward of our devotion to Him! Endless possibilities! But only one new thing would come. Who could have guessed that "new" way was to become a man and die on a cross for their sins?

But what if the generality could still cause us to dream? What if next year's possibilities of "new things" could actually increase our devotion, prayers, and efforts? What if the limits to the things God wants to do new in our church next year are not affected by time or His concerns but by our longings and labor? What could 2026 bring that we have not yet seen because we have not tried anything new ourselves for quite some time?

A few good questions to meditate for your "new" year's

The Deacon's Corner

The Importance of Giving During the Christmas Season

The Christmas season is a time filled with joy, reflection, and an invitation to embrace the spirit of generosity. For believers, this generosity is rooted in the heart of the Christmas story itself. God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, is the ultimate expression of love, and it sets the example for how we are called to give. Scripture reminds us that "God so loved the world that He gave . . ." (John 3:16). When we give, we reflect God's character.

During this season, giving helps to shift our focus from what we receive to how we can bless others. Many around us may be facing challenges, loneliness, or financial

hardship. A sincere act of kindness—whether a financial offering, a shared meal, a thoughtful gift, or a word of encouragement—can become a powerful reminder of God's love. We never know what impact a small gesture can have on the life of another.

Spiritually, giving shapes our hearts. Jesus taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). When we give, we learn to trust God more fully as our provider. We learn to trust God as we loosen our grip on our money and possessions that God blessed us with in the first place. Generosity becomes an act of worship, expressing gratitude for God's blessings and acknowledging His

faithfulness in our lives.

As a church family, our giving during the Christmas season enables us to share Christ's love in meaningful ways—supporting missions, caring for those in need, and sustaining the ministries of our church. Let's continue to be faithful in our giving.

May our giving be joyful, heartfelt, and rooted in gratitude during this Christmas season and beyond. As we give, may others see the light of Christ shining through us.

Blessings To All

Rod Luehrs

Chairman of the Deacons

Youth

We had a large group of seniors graduate, and have tried to come back for youth group. A young adult college and career class is a new ministry possibility. They are still seeking God, and need a space where they feel like they belong and have support.

We really need to pray for a youth pastor. I will not be able to go to camp. Cory, our youth helper, is moving in May. If you feel like going to Super Summer youth camp, please let me know.

December 10th we had an all-youth Christmas party with pizza, games and white-elephant gifts. Wednesday night programs had a break for the last three weeks of December. The 17th was caroling and cocoa, and the 24th and 31st were holidays. We will look forward to re-convening January 7th!

Lisa Crook,
High school Youth Leader



The Middle School Youth room has undergone a tremendous transformation! Janna and her students had a vision, and with their labor and the help of others, their room has become a beautiful and cozy room. Thank you to all who served!

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

A trip to the Processing Center

After all the excitement of packing and collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, Agnes and I traveled to Denver, CO, to help process them. I had done this before (13 years ago). We left right after church and traveled westward. We had some adventures on the way out, like a flat tire, which was unrepairable and some heavy snow near Limon, CO. God was looking out for us. He had a tire for us in Goodland and alert eyes during the snow.

After a good night's rest, we headed to the Denver processing center. We were assigned to a team and headed to our station. Agnes had the job of pre-inspector. She took the boxes out of the cartons, removed rubber bands, and then opened them to check for any shipping money. My main job was to inspect each box. I looked through each box and made sure there wasn't anything that was inappropriate in them. I did have some boxes that had to have items removed. In that case, there were other filler items that I could add in to make the box nice and full. Next, the boxes were taped up and put into their correct carton. Cartons are filled by gender and age group. For example, all the 2-4 year old girl boxes were put in the same carton. Each carton held 14 to 15 boxes. Once filled up, a bell was rung by someone in our group and we celebrated a box filled. It was sent down the line to get loaded up on a semi truck. When we heard a blow horn, that meant a semi was full and headed out. We heard 2 blow horns during our shift.

All the boxes we processed were headed to Mexico and a hard to reach country. We worked from 10-4 and when we left, over 20,000 shoeboxes had been processed that day. Since opening on the Friday before we got there up until the time we left, over 180,000 boxes had been processed! The boxes processed on Friday and Saturday were headed to Africa.

We saw many fun ideas of items we could include in our boxes and the

need for more filler items like school and hygiene items. One of the cool things was every couple of hours, the shift manager stopped everyone for an update, video, and a time of prayer over the boxes. It is a really neat time. Some great Christian music was played as we worked, which made it fun to sing along as you worked.

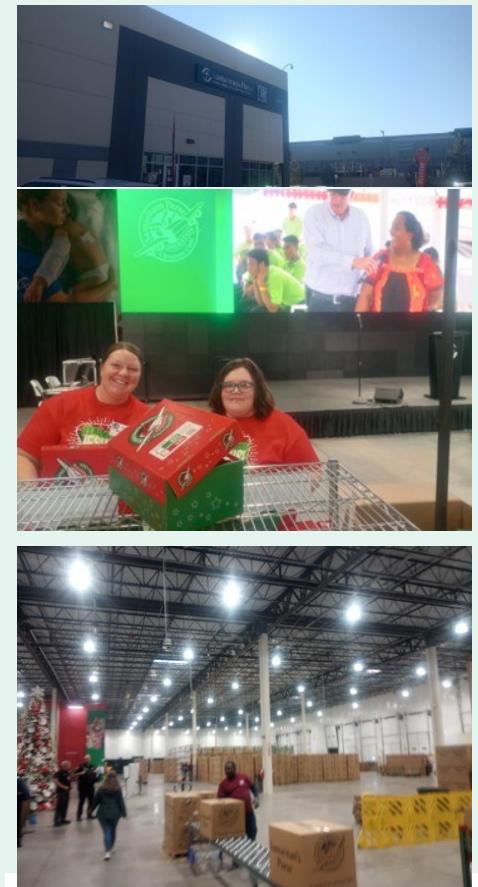
Overall, Agnes and I had a great time and look forward to going again.

Don't forget as a new year begins, to keep your eyes open for things to pack in our boxes come November. You can also fill a shoebox any time of the year and bring it to the church. Happy New Year of collecting!

Karen Leibbrandt
OCC Coordinator



January OCC Shopping List
Hats
Scarves
Gloves
Any good after-Christmas deals



Outreach

First Southern Baptist Church got First place for best theme in the Parade. Our theme was Christmas at Grandma's. We gathered around the Christmas tree as Grandma reads us the story of our Savior's birth.

I would like to thank everyone on the Outreach team for everything they did to help get the float ready. Thank you to everyone that helped toss candy and t-shirts to the crowd. I also want to thank everyone who donated candy.

Janna Davis
Outreach Leader



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

Be In The Know:

**Jan. 7 Wednesday
Kidz Club returns**

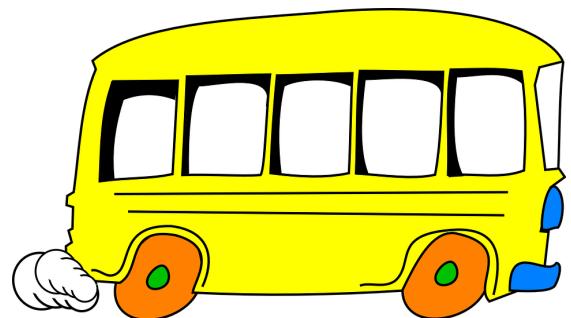


**The Children's Choir
did a wonderful job
performing for the
church service in
December**

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Transportation requests need to be responded to on time in order for the team to guarantee everyone a seat. Only the parent of the child can ask for a ride for their child.

Bus Line: 316-452-3594



Current Church Schedule

- **Sunday School 9:30 am**
- **Sunday Worship 10:45 am**
- **Sunday 5 pm—Women's Bible study**
- **Mondays 6:15 pm—Prayer meeting**
- **Mondays 6:30 pm—"Dear Food, I Love You. I Hate You. Don't Leave me!"**
- **Tuesdays 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery**
- **Last Tuesdays, 11 am—Women's Bible Study**
- **Wednesdays 6:00 pm—Light meal for kids.**
- **Wednesdays 6:30 pm—Kidz Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study.**

Jan 11 Potluck:

If your last name begins with **A-H, bring a salad. If your last name begins with **I-Q**, bring soup. If your last name begins with **R-Z**, bring a dessert. Please bring enough for your family and then some.**

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sundays 9:30 am—Sunday School 10:45 am—Worship 5:00 pm—Women's Bible Study	Mondays 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	Tuesdays 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	Wednesdays 6:30 pm Adult, Youth and Children's Bible study	1 David B	2	3 Gunther B 10:00 am—Breakfast & Undecorating Party
4 12:15 Nursery Volunteer's Meeting	5 Sophie S	6	7 Kevin T Wednesday night programs resume	8 Willie S	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	17 Gloria T
18	19 MLK Day, Office Closed (No school)	20	21	22 Deb R	23	24
25 Lisa C	26	27	28	29	30	31 John M
Laura Out of Office 27– Feb 3						

Date	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date	Wednesday Meal
12/28	Jeff, Laura	David C.	Sheila	Guest	Angelina	Cara S.	Rod L	Susan F.	Janna D.	12/31	NONE
1/4	John, Lisa	John M.	John	Reinert	Rod	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Deb S.	Laura L	1/7	Paula
1/11	Jeff, Laura	Joe R.	Deb	Reinert	Julie H.	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Laura L.	Marsha P	1/14	Susan F. & Marsha P.
1/18	John, Lisa	Rod L.	Janna	Reinert	Susan & Pat M	Cara S.	Johnie G.	Ulala P.	Karen D.	1/21	Karen & Phil D.
1/25	Jeff, Laura	Johnie G.	Sheila	Guest	Jennifer L	Karen	Johnie G.	Susan F.	Janna D.	1/28	Mary G.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sundays 9:30 am—Sunday School 10:45 am—Worship 5:00 pm—Women's Bible Study	Mondays 6:15 pm Prayer meeting	Tuesdays 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery	Wednesdays 6:30 pm Adult, Youth and Children's Bible study			
1	2 Matthew W	3 Cory G	4	5	6	7 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am Leon
Laura Out of Office 27– Feb 3						
8 Tyler L No Potluck, A-Team(BYOL)	9 Tyson N	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines' Day
15 Dan S, Trenton D	16 President's Day-Office Closed-No School	17	18 by 9:00 am Newsletter Items Due	19 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	20	21 Joanie B 6 pm Valentine's Banquet
22	23	24	25 Aidan D	26	27	28

Date	Sound Room	Prayer	Bus Driver	Children's Church	Nursery During Church		Head Counter	Counter 2	Counter 3	Date	Wednesday Meal
2/1	John, Lisa	Joe L.	John	Brickley	Johnie G.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Rod L.	Laura L	2/4	Paula
2/8	Jeff, Laura	John B.	Deb	Brickley	Julie H.	Cara S.	Deb S.	Laura L.	Marsha P	2/11	Susan F. & Marsha
2/15	John, Lisa	David C.	Janna	Brickley	Angelina	Cara S.	Deb S.	Ulala P.	Karen D.	2/18	Karen & Phil D.
2/22	Jeff, Laura	John M.	Sheila	Guest	Karen L.	Susan & Pat M	Deb S.	Susan F.	Janna D.	2/25	Mary G.
3/1	John, Lisa	Joe R.	John	Reinert	Johnie G.	Cara S.	Rod L	Deb S.	Laura L	3/4	Paula