

**“No one has ever seen God;  
but if we love one another,  
God lives in us and his love  
is made complete in us.”**

1 John 4:12

**FIRST CHRONICLES**

**February, 2025**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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***“But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.” – Exodus 13:18***

This has been a different winter. While we’ve had a few cold days and some light dustings of snow, the South has had blizzards! My snow shovels continue to hang on the wall in the garage. Our bag of sidewalk salt sits unused. And on some days, I debate whether or not I even need my winter coat. It’s an odd winter so far (maybe I should knock on some wood ☺). But even though I haven’t used them much this year, I’m still glad I have these things. Just because they haven’t been needed over the past few months does not mean that they won’t be useful in the future. Being equipped is a good thing.

The same thing is true in our walk with God. God equips us with tools even though we won’t always have to use that equipping. He demonstrated this with the Israelites in the Exodus. In the verse above, we see that the Israelites were equipped for battle as they left Egypt and journeyed toward the Red Sea. Being equipped for battle means that they had swords, shields, and armor. But in the verse right before this, God led them by a different way to the Red Sea because he didn’t want the Israelites to war with the Philistines. They had the tools and equipment for war, but God did not want them to use it... yet.

In the next chapter (Exodus 14), the Israelites come to the Red Sea and see the Egyptians in pursuit behind them. But they still didn’t use their equipment. God protected them as they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground and then He closed the sea on their enemies. God fought their battles for them. They were equipped, but they didn’t need to use their equipping. It’s not until chapter 17 that we see their first battle. Even then, while the Israelites used their battle equipment, it was God who won the battle for them—through Moses raising his hands.

Over the years, I’ve worked to equip us with different tools for reading our Bible, praying, confessing, worshipping, and evangelizing. We won’t always need to use these tools and we’ll discover which tools we like. There may be an evangelism tool with which we are more comfortable, but having a few in our tool box means we’re ready for many different situations. There may be certain ways we like to engage in Bible devotions, but more tools will help us to dig deeper when we have a question that needs to be answered. It’s good to be equipped even if we don’t always use that equipping.

But there may be times when we come upon a situation that overwhelms our tools and equipment. Even then, remember that God will be with you. Mark 13:11 says, “And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” So no matter how many tools we have, we must still rely on God. Our spiritual tools only work so far as He is with us.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
<b>Sunday, February 2</b> Jim & Sharon Douglass	<b>Sunday, February 2</b> Rachel Kramer	<b>Sunday, February 2</b> Katie DeBoer
<b>Sunday, February 9</b> Bryan & Rachel Kramer	<b>Sunday, February 9</b> Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, February 9</b> Rachel Kramer
<b>Sunday, February 16</b> Darren & Julie Kramer	<b>Sunday, February 16</b> Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, February 16</b> Kayla Reck
<b>Sunday, February 23</b> Daryl & Mary Kramer	<b>Sunday, February 23</b> Alyssa den Hoed	<b>Sunday, February 23</b> Abby Kramer



February	5	Gerald denHoed
	7	Olivia Cottington
	11	Bryan & Rachel Kramer Logan den Hoed Noah Gruis
	14	Crystal deBoer
	15	Stephanie Gruis
	16	Cole den Hoed
	17	Dennis & Gracia Schrick Gayle Wagenaar
	19	Henry Boneschans
	20	Judy Eben
	22	Gracia Schrick Eli DeBoer
	23	Bryan Kramer
	24	Connie Christians
	26	Rhonda Kruse
	28	Daniel & Brenna Kramer Daren Winkowitsch

# Thank You So Much

Thank you for the fruit basket that I received. -Janice Schneidermann

Thank you for the gift card and for the fruit basket that we received. We really appreciated it. -Henry & Joan Boneschans

We want to say thank you to the church for the flowers that we received, to Pastor for a beautiful service, for the workers that helped in the kitchen, and to all of those who sent cards. It is greatly appreciated. -The Delores Jurrens Family

Dear Christian Hour Circle Members,

We want to sincerely thank you for your generous CHRISTmas gift of \$100. We are humbled and blessed by your faithful giving to our ministry since 2010!! May the Lord continue to use you as you invest in missions around the world. We wish you a joyous and blessed 2025!! In Christ's Love, Rick and Debbie Bardin



From Jace Schrick, YWAM (Youth With A Mission):

Thank you for partnering with me financially and in prayer. I am happy to say God has been faithful and I am fully funded. Everything for returning to Cypress has been going well. I am student leading a team similar to the one I was on last year. Although we are working in a slightly different area of Cyprus, I'm glad to say I am able to meet with many I met last year. I am praying God has been working on their hearts and will encourage the Christians I met last year.

Pray for Baran, a Turkish gangster, about my age, Hrsen, an Iranian wrestling with God, Ahben, a Jordanian student, and Constantine, Vlad, Sergei, Adnah and Aziz, all Russian students . These are just a few of the many I am excited to see, but all are unsaved and I love very much. I am excited to see all God has in store for our team and how we can serve in Islamic countries.



There will be a baptism class starting in March for anyone interested in being baptized. The location will depend on how many people sign up for the class. Talk to Pastor Jesse if you are interested.

Ladies Night will be February 11 @ 7 pm. We will be packing valentine bags for shut in and nursing home residents. All ladies of the church are welcome!

## February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U	3	4	5 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	6	7	8
9 SUPER BOWL 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship	10	11 7:00 PM Ladies Night  7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	12 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	13	14	15
16 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U	17	18	19 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U	24	25	26 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	27	28	