



FIRST WORDS

SHINING A LIGHT:

Support City Light Through Abilene Gives

Please be in prayer about joining us to celebrate City Light on Tuesday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. as we raise funds through Abilene Gives!

Abilene Gives is a special day of giving that makes a significant impact on nonprofit organizations serving our community. Join us at City Light for this festive occasion and be part of something meaningful.

Thank you for all you do to support our ministry, your generosity makes a difference! Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 6 and take a moment to remember City Light. Your support helps us continue serving those in need!

SUPPORTING THE LITTLE ONES:

Support GLO Through Abilene Gives

God's Little Ones Daycare (GLO) is participating in Abilene Gives again this year. On Tuesday, May 6 Abilene Gives will go live beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

This one-day event highlights many of the non-profits in Abilene and provides a way for the Big Country to participate in helping them achieve their mission. GLO, a part of Mission Action, Inc. which is under the umbrella of First Baptist Church, receives support from the church ministry budget, but needs additional funding to meet the annual operating expenses.



EASTER AT FIRST

Easter is just a few weeks away and there are several events we want you to be aware of. Palm Sunday, April 13 will feature our tradition of having the children and youth enter the sanctuary waving the palm fronds and singing as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. That kicks off Holy Week where we will continue with our cooperation with the other downtown churches and have the Holy Week Luncheons.

Then on Thursday, we will have our Maundy Thursday Service and this year we will have a drama entitled, "Is It I?" This drama tells the story of the Passover meal where Jesus gives us the new way of looking at the bread and juice.



Easter Sunday will continue with our tradition of flowering the cross, both the one on the front porch of the sanctuary, as well as the one in the sanctuary. We would ask you to bring flowers to place on the cross on the porch and then the children will come forward to flower the one in the sanctuary.



HOLY WEEK

Monday, April 14

Highland Church of Christ

"Am I Mary?"

John 12:1-11

Matt Cook, speaker

Tuesday, April 15

St. Paul United Methodist

"Am I Peter?"

Mark 14:29-31

Cliff Stewart, speaker

Wednesday, April 16

First Central Presbyterian

"Am I Judas?"

Matthew 26:14-16

Benji Van Fleet, speaker

Thursday, April 17

First Baptist Church

"Am I a Servant?"

John 13:12-17

Shane Hughes, speaker

REFRESH

FBC WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARCH 28 – 30, 2025

I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint. –Jeremiah 31:25

Thirty of our FBC women embraced this verse while spending the weekend in Granbury. We spent time worshiping, laughing, sharing, & crying together. Our hotel was located right beside Lake Granbury. Being so close to the lake gave us the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of God's creation while remembering who God created us to be; uniquely created in His image and seriously taking His command to keep the sabbath.

We spent the rest of the weekend "refreshing" by spending time together eating, playing games, eating, helping the local economy (yes, we shopped quite a bit), and yes, eating some more. Remember, Jesus ate with people A LOT! Not everyone on the retreat knew each other, so it was great to re-connect with familiar faces and also meet and get to know some new ones.

This weekend was a true blessing to each woman who attended and each one came back refreshed!



THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

We held our annual Pancake Supper on Saturday, March 1. This event is now held by the children and youth of FBC and it was a night filled with very tasty pancakes and bacon, but it was also filled with lots of fellowship and laughter.

On Wednesday nights, we have been talking about sharing the love of Christ with others. One of the ways we can show love is by serving others with joyful hearts. There were many wonderful opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ during the supper as the children waited on tables, got extra servings for those who wanted more, cleaned up trash, as well as just offering to help others. Our youth were able to demonstrate this love by cooking and serving our food as well as pitching in wherever needed. Both children and youth not only demonstrated love to others, but did a fabulous job as they served and cooked!

We are blessed and so very thankful to have so many help make this event happen, whether it was cooking, serving, cleaning up, buying tickets, eating, or giving donations. A special THANK YOU goes to Jennifer Miller, Susie Vandever, Britney Tucker, Mike Greenfield, & Debra Clemmer for helping in early preparation for this event. As always, our custodial staff goes above and beyond to help make this event happen. They set up and tear down the tables, but most importantly they set up the griddles where we can cook without tripping breakers. We are very thankful for such a wonderful team who helps us at all of our events.

We collected over **\$2,400** and the money will go towards helping buy supplies for a children's Montessori school in Mexico City, as well as helping with the doctor's clinic that an FBC missions' team will be running in August. We look forward to working with our missions' department in planning future events and to hopefully making this an annual way to raise funds.

Thank you for being a church who allows our children and youth to put what they are learning into action. ***We are very blessed!***



BECKY TUCKER
Pastor for Children



REALM AND YOU

You may be asking, "What is Realm and why I need to know about it?" Those are great questions and ones I hope will be beneficial to you. Realm is the church database software we use to keep up with all the church membership, track attendance in Sunday school, and keep financial records of giving for end of year tax purposes. So, the software is very useful for those in the church office on a daily basis. However, it can be very useful for all the church membership once everyone knows how to utilize it properly.

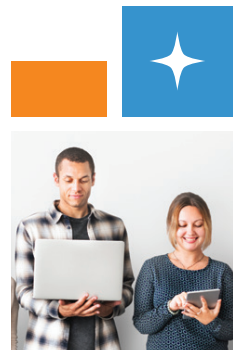
So, over the next few weeks and probably months, we are going to roll out Realm to the church. We are going to start with our lay leadership: deacons, Sunday school leaders, committee members, and then move out to the entire church. Ultimately, once everyone is on board, everyone in the church will be able to access an online directory of fellow church members, have communication options with other fellow committee members, and view their own personal giving record (even print a giving statement at the end of the year for tax purposes). All this information is currently in our database, but only accessible to staff who have login privileges. It is important to note that each login account is limited to what that person needs to be able to access. In other words, Fred cannot see what anyone in the church gives except what Fred gives.

Be looking for more information about how you can access Realm.

Let's be the church together... online.

- 🔍 Look up members in our church directory
- 👤 Update your personal information
- 💰 Give online - one time & recurring gifts
- 🖨️ View giving history & print giving statements
- 📋 Make & keep track of pledges

Sign up or sign in at onrealm.org



We use Realm
to help connect our
church community

COMMUNITY WORSHIP NIGHT

On Monday evening, April 7, you are invited to a community worship event at Moody Coliseum at ACU. There will be vendors, food trucks, and fun from 6-7 p.m. and worship will begin at 7 p.m. If you plan to attend, let Matthew know so he can be looking for you!

OSL X SGA X CAB PRESENT

THE OFFICE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD ARE TEAMING UP WITH PORTRAITS MUSIC TO HOST A WORSHIP NIGHT FOR THE ABILENE COMMUNITY. COFFEE AND VENDORS WILL BE AT PECK PLAZA FROM 6-7PM BEFORE DOORS OPEN. 20 CHAPEL CREDITS WILL BE GIVEN TO ACU STUDENTS!



WITH
PORTRAITS
MUSIC

APRIL 7
2025

MOODY COLISEUM
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

COMMUNITY WORSHIP NIGHT

ESPRESSOAK
ABITHRIFT
SEVEN AND ONE
DIY CRAFTS
POPCORN
KEFIA LEMONADE
DEARLY DENAE
AND MORE!

VENDORS AT 6PM IN PECK PLAZA

YOUNG ADULT DAY AT THE REFUGE RANCH BLUEBONNET FESTIVAL

On Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. the young adults will be attending the Bluebonnet Festival. Here is information from Refuge Ranch: Bluebonnet Festival – A Whimsical Outdoor Celebration!

Gather your family and friends for a one-of-a-kind day filled with fun, creativity, and community!

Bluebonnet Festival Highlights:

- Live Music by Christy Patton & Jess Goodlett
- Delicious Food Trucks serving up local favorites
- Local Artisans showcasing unique handmade goods
- Balloon Artist crafting complimentary bluebonnet & custom balloons
- Bluebonnet Art Workshop led by a talented local artist
- Fun Outdoor Activities for all ages



BEREAVEMENT FOOD MINISTRY TEAM

One of the most active ministry teams at FBC Abilene is the Bereavement Food Ministry Team, a group of dedicated volunteers who provide meals to families on the day of the memorial service for their loved ones.

Can you help...

Provide a dish

Set up tables

Serve the meal

Clean up?

To volunteer for this team, or receive more information, contact Pam Nicholas (325) 669-5769 or pam.nicholas@sbcglobal.net or Sarah Matthews (509) 263-3313 , or sarahchanged@hotmail.com

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHTS:

CITY LIGHT Community Ministries

MEALS:
3,762

VOLUNTEER HOURS:
476

WALK-INS:
743

MAIL CHECKS:
390

SHOWERS:
242



A LITTLE KINDNESS GOES A LONG WAY

Our neighbors at City Light feel truly blessed when others go out of their way to make them feel accepted. Even the smallest gesture can have a big impact on their hearts.

Recently, a family put together care packages to share with our neighbors — your generosity will make them feel truly special and valued. We appreciate your kindness and support!

FLC Family Life Center



PARTY PACKAGES: **53**

FITNESS CENTER USES: **252**

NEW FITNESS MEMBERS: **10**

FITNESS CLASSES: **19**

SERENITY HOUSE: **350**

FULL BUILDING RENTAL: **15**

WALK-INS: **759**

SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS: **5**

SCHOOL GROUPS: **5**

FAMILY REUNION: **1**

Housed 11 students from Fairfield University the week of spring break (Mission trip for them helping our local IRC)

APRIL

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

April 1, 29 years

MIKE GREENFIELD

*Pastor for Administration &
Spiritual Development*

April 17, 8 years

MIKE BRADY

Director of FLC

April 22, 15 years

CANDY RAINS

Pastor for Preschool

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

March 2025

Budget	March	Year-to-Date
Required	\$317,010	\$849,080
Given	\$380,749	\$850,765

*God continues to bless our faithfulness through
the tithes and offerings given to His Kingdom work.*



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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- 6** Personnel Committee Meeting
- 7** Community Worship Night
@ ACU Moody Coliseum
- 8** Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

Youth Easter Service
- 10** Blessed Family Event
- 12** Young Adult Bluebonnet Festival/
Refuge Ranch
- 14** Holy Week Lunch
@ Highland Church of Christ
- 15** Holy Week Lunch @ St. Paul UMC

Finance Committee Meeting

Deacons' Meeting
- 16** Holy Week Lunch
@ First Central Presbyterian
- 17** Holy Week Lunch
@ FBC Family Life Center

Maundy Thursday Service
- 18** Church Offices closed for Good Friday
- 20** Easter Sunday
- 21** MOCE Board Meeting
- 23** Hospital Visitation Team Meeting
- 27** Missions' Committee Meeting
- 29** Women's Praise Night
- 30** Church Conference