



FIRSTWORDS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will soon be here!! As you read this, we are in the planning stages and recruiting volunteers for a wonderful week!

On Sunday, May 26, as we worship in the sanctuary the platform will have been transformed into The Dive Shop Worship Rally area so you will get a little taste of what our children will enjoy through the week. Beginning Tuesday, May 28, through Friday, May 31, there will be a little more activity or might we say, a lot more activity around church than usual as we will have children ages 4 - completed 5th grade each morning for Vacation Bible School. We will start every morning at 9 a.m. and end at noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Friday we will extend our day for

half an hour and conclude the week with our final Worship Rally and program. The Final Worship Rally will begin Friday at 11:45 a.m. and will be finished by 12:30 p.m.

This year, through our Scuba theme, we will be "diving into friendship with God." We will start each morning in the sanctuary with The Dive Shop Worship Rally and then break into age groups where we will rotate through Bible Study at Deep Bible



BECKY TUCKER
Pastor for Children

Continued from Cover.

Adventures; Crafts at Imagination Station; Music at the Splash Zone; Recreation at Reef Rec; Snacks at Tidal Treats; and Missions at the Tide Pool!

We ask that you be in prayer for the many children and volunteers who will be involved. We ask specifically that you pray for: the children who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; for those who already have made Him their Lord and Savior to grow in their walk; the volunteers who are leading Bible study & missions as they speak the words God puts on their hearts; the ones leading music and recreation to have patience with the children, as these times are very active yet very meaningful to many; those leading crafts, that the activities they have for the children will help bring understanding especially for those children who need to see things rather than just hear; those who provide the snacks for us, as eating and fellowshiping together can be such an important part of being a community of believers; and the leaders who walk, talk, and listen to the children as they go to each area.

Thank you for being a church who not only prays for events such as VBS, but continues to invest in the lives of children and their families.

COLLEGE SENIOR RECOGNITION Sunday, May 5



As a part of worship on Sunday, May 5, we will be honoring Adam Clifton who will be graduating from McMurry with a Bachelors of Music Education. Adam will be headed to South Carolina this fall where he will be attending the University of South Carolina to pursue a Masters of Music in Percussion Performance. He has been involved in the college ministry as well as playing in the orchestra on Sundays. When asked what has FBC meant to him, he responded, "First Baptist Church has been a wonderful family away from home that has cheered me on through my time at McMurry."

CULINARY ACADEMY GRADUATION

It was a warm Friday evening when a small crowd gathered to celebrate the City Light Culinary Academy's first graduating class of 2024. Not only were they the first graduates of 2024, these students were the first to study in our new building. During her presentation, Chef Kay un-romanticized being "the first" in the building. She and the students had to cooperate to find the rhythms and protocols in a new space, and they learned to navigate the space together. If you haven't visited yet, this new space is a chamber of wood and steel with large windows, and that night it was softened with gold-trimmed deep-blue blossoms. Dark candlesticks with golden flames identified the front-most tables as the those where the three graduates sat.

Near the end of the ceremony, Chef Kay introduced each graduate to us, embraced them, and handed them their certificate. The third and final graduate, Eric, received special recognition for earning perfect attendance for the 12-

week course. (And it should be noted that the other graduates only missed one day each; a rather impressive attendance record, all around).

There were a few soft tears, and they were the quiet testament to God's presence in the dining room. God's goodness was obvious in the crowd, as joy flowed through bubbly conversations, across steel tables, and over the clinking of spoons on ceramic. God's peace, as it has always been, was there. These students' lives display God's faithfulness. To God we pray gratitude for bringing them this far, and to God we request persistence to bring them further.

Congratulations to our graduates Adam, Andrew, and Eric!

MAKENZIE MORRISON
City Light



BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Trevor and Gina Allen need assistance with their Backyard Bible Club this summer, scheduled for June 17-20, from 9-11 a.m. Volunteers are need for various tasks such as crafts, snacks, and Bible stories. Your support through prayer is also invaluable. The success of the Backyard Bible Club relies on your help. Please reach out to Gina Allen if you can assist.

Gmallen1290@gmail.com or 817-271-8849

MCALLEN MISSION TRIP

SIGN UP NOW! CONTACT THE MISSIONS' OFFICE! 325-675-8112

Construction Team—July 11-14

We have an extraordinary opportunity for a team of volunteers in McAllen, TX. With hearts full of determination and hands ready to work, you may embark on a journey to build a home. The backdrop will be a Texas sky, as you measure, saw, and hammer knowing that every nail driven, and wall raised will bring a family one step closer to stability and security. Help us build a foundation of hope and a testament to the power of compassion in McAllen Texas.

Family Team needed in McAllen, Texas—July 14-19

Attention all families! Join us in McAllen, Texas, from July 14-19 for an unforgettable opportunity to make a difference. We're calling on you to lend a hand and assist with a vital project on the border. Yes, it will be hot, but it will also be incredibly rewarding and full of fun memories. We need your help to make this mission a success, so gather your loved ones and join us for a week of meaningful service. Together, we can make a lasting impact and create positive change in McAllen. Let's come together, beat the heat, and make a difference!

MEXICO CITY MISSION TEAM

Please keep the Mexico City mission team in your prayers.

The team consists of Matthew Broyles, Jaxon Craig, Barry Moak, John Moore, Javier Perez, and Greg Young.

The team will be in Mexico City May 18-25.



EVERY MEMBER IS CREW

by Ben Gray

This is your captain speaking...

Your "Volunteer Recruiting Team" invites and encourages you to participate in the ministries at FBC.

We want to make everyone aware of our needs.

Having more volunteers is one way we can "Minister to our Ministers" by giving them more of the hands and feet of Christ and they will sense your support directly.

From a faith perspective, this is a matter of God calling us to join in His work and become the kind of fellowship we are called to be.

If you've been waiting for someone to ask you to serve, now is your opportunity. If you will please join me in this simple prayer, "Search my heart Oh God and place me where you want me to be."

God will answer your prayer. Trust in Him.

As we continue trusting in Him during our journey...

God at work...

Todd Wilson recently told me, several capable volunteers for the worship ministry have stepped up. What an answer to prayer! Thank you, Adam and Marilyn, for your gift of service.

For specific areas you can serve, look for those updates in the weekly "Sunday Morning News."

CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

4,190

MEALS SERVED

Includes: Sunday Breakfast, Community Breakfast, Community Lunch (both dine-in and take out), and Produce from the City Light Market

592

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Personal Assistance:

436

WALK-INS

for assistance

265

MAIL

Delivered and checked

127

SHOWERS



COFFEY FARMS

Family farming happens around Abilene which is a huge help for City Light. Coffey Farms provide our community with top-quality produce, pasture-raised beef, and poultry in the Big Country. Their mission is to responsibly steward the land God has blessed them with, offering high-quality food at affordable prices to bless others.

City Light extends heartfelt gratitude to Coffey Farms for their generous donation of 50 dozen eggs. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Please check out their Facebook page "Coffey Farms" or their website coffeyfarmstx.com



FLC

Family Life Center

53

PARTIES

391

Individuals

8

New Members

FITNESS CENTER USE

19

Classes

FITNESS CLASSES

216

Individuals

SERENITY HOUSE

7

GROUPS

FULL BUILDING RENTAL

358

Individuals

WALK-INS

330

Individuals

SCHOOL GROUPS

26

Individuals

**HOME SCHOOL
GROUPS**

80

Individuals

**SPECIAL NEEDS
GROUPS**

The Family Life Center opened in 1981. Our mission is to provide family-oriented activities for the church membership & surrounding communities in a Christian atmosphere at an affordable price. Our facility accommodates a variety of groups such as businesses, churches, day care/day camps, private home schools, public schools, individuals with special needs, universities, military, family reunions, residential treatment centers, exercise groups and Fellowship of Christian Athletes to list a few. We host birthday parties, bridal showers, wedding receptions and Family Fun Nights. In addition, we have a full fitness center with lockers, showers and sauna amenities. For those who simply want a place to walk, out of the weather, our track or gym is free to the public.



Groups Hosted in April:

Hospice of Abilene Banquet
hosted 60 Individuals

YOUTH CAMPS

Summer is on its way! Every year, our students have the exciting opportunity to deepen their faith and love for God through the experience of summer camp. Youth camp always includes fun activities, lots of laughter, and that friendly competition to see who is going to win that year's rec games. While our students will certainly enjoy their time jumping off the blob, swimming in the pool, playing archery tag, and cheering on their teammates, youth camp means so much more for the youth than this. At previous camps, I have witnessed students grow in discipleship through their time in worship and Bible study. Our youth grow closer to one another during church-group time and fellowship. They develop bonds of friendship that last a lifetime. Most importantly, the students have the opportunity to learn of Christ's love for them and how they may show that love to the world.

A saying that has become popular in previous years is "Life happens after

camp." This means that our students will inevitably engage with the world after whatever happens at summer camp. We all have to! It is the way life works. The purpose of this saying is to encourage our students to live authentically by faith and love in response to their experiences at youth camp. We do not want our students to simply treat camp as just another week. I hope you will pray for our students this year so they may be able to keep living for Christ, even after the camp vans return to the church parking lot. Here is another trustworthy saying, "Life happens before camp." As our students continue to get excited for their experiences this summer, please spend time in prayer asking God to ready their hearts and their minds for this amazing week. Pray for safe travels and fun experiences. Pray for the love of Christ to make a profound impact on everyone at camp. Encourage the youth to sign up for camp so they do not miss this yearly highlight!

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 2-7
in Glorieta, New Mexico
(Cost: TBD)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 11-15
at Horizon Camps in
Brownwood, Texas
(Cost: \$290)

SENIOR SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 12, we will be honoring our high school seniors during the morning worship service as they prepare for finals and graduation. In previous years, the church has been given the opportunity to write words of encouragement and support to our graduating seniors. These words are compiled into a journal which will then be handed to the students during the worship service. For the past few years, we have placed these journals online for our congregation to access and fill out their personalized notes. We will be doing the same format for our students this year and we encourage you to take the opportunity to leave some kind words for the seniors to read. Simply go to the Youth page on the church website, find the student(s) you wish to leave a note for, and share your personal word of encouragement in the space provided. Submissions will be printed, bound, and given to the students on May 12, so we will need all entries to be submitted by Friday, May 10 at Noon!

High School Senior Journals

<https://fbcabilene.org/ministries/high-school-senior-sunday-journals>

As our high school seniors prepare for their next steps in the journey called "life," I would like to encourage our congregation to be in prayer for these students and their families. Also, I pray that our church will continue to be the place these students may call "home" and "family." Paul reminds

us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we work and live together in faith just as a body has many parts which make up the whole. Over the years, these students have been a vital part of this body of believers, and my hope is our church will continue to be a place where they feel loved and valued. Thank you for the role you play as a church family in the lives of our students!

Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

***- Philippians 1:3-6
(The Message)***



HUNTER BROWN
Pastor for Youth



ABILENE GIVES MAY 7, 2024

City Light Community Ministries will be participating in the Abilene Gives campaign. If you're interested in being a part of this special day, please consider donating to City Light Community Ministries. You can make a significant impact by providing essentials like warm showers, hot meals, a place to receive mail, and a safe place to rest for those in need. Your support can truly make a difference in someone's life. Abilene Gives is a 12-hour online giving event from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 7, to raise money and awareness for nonprofits serving Abilene and surrounding areas.

Please consider City Light Community Ministries for Abilene Gives!

Broadcast Media Viewership Report January - April 2024

Each Sunday, the worship service of FBC is broadcasted on television and streamed on the internet and social media. A delayed and edited service is broadcasted on KTXS from 10:00-10:30 a.m. and a live broadcast is on the CW channel 10:30-11:30 a.m. Additionally, the entire service is streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and Boxcast. Viewership is measured by the Nielsen Rating System, Google Analytics, Boxcast Analytics, and Facebook views. The broadcast requires 15 volunteers each Sunday. If you are interested, this ministry needs volunteers.

TV viewership covers the 19 counties surrounding Abilene. Streaming reports show viewership in 15 states and 2 countries each week. We get demographic information such as age, location and average viewing times. The 35 to 64-year-old age group are those who watch most often. These statistics are averaged for the first quarter of 2024.

Average number of Television Viewers reached each Sunday: **4,291**

Streaming Viewers reached each Sunday: **1,025**

Total viewers reached each Sunday: **6,341**

MAY

- 5** College Sr. Recognition
Recreation Board Meeting
- 8** Buildings & Grounds
Committee Meeting
- 12** High School Senior Recognition
- 14** First Friends Preschool Spring
Program & Graduation
- 15** GLO Board Meeting
Grant-in-Aid Ministry
Team Meeting
- 18-25** Mexico City Mission Trip
- 19** AISD Baccalaureate
Missions' Committee Meeting
- 21** Finance Committee Meeting
Deacons' Meeting
- 26** Lord's Supper
- 27** Church Offices Closed for
Memorial Day Holiday
- 28-31** Vacation Bible School

STAY CONNECTED



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@fbcabilene

<https://twitter.com/fbcabilene>



First Baptist Church,
Abilene, TX

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchAbileneTx/>

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

May 5, 10 years

TINA HOFFMAN

Counseling Receptionist

May 30, 1 year

ELVA HUFFORD

GLO Cook

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

April 2024

Budget	April	Year-to-Date
Required	\$ 276,010	\$ 1,170,140
Given	\$ 174,350	\$ 1,038,015

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



First Friends Preschool is offering a six-week summer program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 11-July 18 for children ages 6 six weeks to 5th grade.

Our preschool friends will be exploring the wonders of the ocean through sensory play, circle time, music class, games, and fun summer time activities. Our grade school friends will join in on the ocean fun as well as exploring Abilene on field trips.

For more information, please contact
Katie Palmer 325-675-8129 or
katie.palmer@fbcabilene.org.



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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