



# FIRSTWORDS

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT CITY LIGHT

During Community Weekend at First Baptist Church, love took on a tangible form as children and youth came together for a special service project. During the breakout sessions, they assembled Valentine care packs for our neighbors at City Light, filling each bag with thoughtful goodies and heartfelt care.

The joy on our neighbors' faces was unmistakable as they eagerly received their gifts. Some couldn't wait for the bag to be placed directly in their hands, a reminder that they are seen, valued, and loved.

A big thank you to the children, youth, and volunteers who helped make this Valentine's Day a memorable and meaningful one. Your kindness made a lasting impact, spreading love in the most beautiful way!





# DISCIPLE NOW 2025

What an amazing weekend Disciple Now 2025 turned out to be! Our students got to spend February 14-16 learning about their journeys, about God's forgiveness and grace, and about the path God wants us to walk in life. No matter how far off the path we may walk, God is there watching over us. More so, God will always be waiting with open arms and abundant love when we leave our selfish paths behind and come running back to God. The students got to learn about the Prodigal Son in their breakout sessions, hear the Word preached from Kyle Crim as he spoke this weekend, and experience God's presence in amazing worship led by Jonny Hughes.



If you see one of our students wearing their DNow shirt in the future, make sure to ask them about their favorite part of the weekend. You may hear of the ongoing competition between the Orange, Yellow, Blue, and Green teams. You may also hear of a wild game of Clue where it turns out that Col. C.V. Mustard left his Golden Plunger on the Youth Floor. But hopefully, you may also hear the students reflect on their journeys with Christ and how God is constantly with them wherever life takes them.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend possible. With your dedication to our students and church, this weekend will hopefully remain one of the most impactful moments in the journeys of our youth. Our appreciation and gratitude go out to:

Kelsey Brown	Bob Ellis	Rocky McAdams	Becky Tucker
Jerry Clark	Mike Greenfield	Hannah McKean	Susie Vandever
Kathryn Clark	Dina Griffin	Jeff Messer	Jecilly Varghese
Debra Clemmer	Tim Griffin	Kelley Messer	Trayton Weeden
Steve Clemmer	Roy Longacre	John Moore	John Weeks
Casey Curnutt	Sandy Longacre	Kristen Patterson	Sarah Martin-Werntz
Mindi Curnutt	Amy McAdams	Darrell Roy	Todd Wilson

Thank you to all our deacons who brought food and drinks for our parent/student breakfast on Sunday morning. The meal was loved by all who attended.

Thank you to anyone whose name may be missing from this list or to those who helped from the sidelines. I am grateful for your presence in our ministry and in the journeys of our students. Thank you for your willingness to be the Body of Christ.

And...mark your calendars for next year!

**Disciple Now 2026: February 13-15.**

*"The Lord will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."  
– Psalm 121:7-8 (NIV)*



**HUNTER BROWN**  
Pastor for Youth





# **FBC ABILENE** *Acting in Love*

## **SHORT-TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025**

At FBC Abilene, we believe that missions are an expression of God's love in action. Whether across the street or across the world, we are committed to serving others with compassion and purpose. As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to be part of the many short-term mission opportunities that will allow us to share the love of Christ with those in need.

### **JUNE 6-15, 2025 SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA**

Walk alongside CBF Missionaries Alicia and Jeff Lee.

Cost will range from \$2,400 - \$2,800 tentatively.

### **JUNE 16-19, 2025 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB**

Assist Trevor and Gina Allen in leading community outreach to neighbors.

Cost is a big heart that loves telling the gospel to kids.

### **JULY 10-15/16, 2025 CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP TO MCALLEN, TX**

We have great construction leadership in place who can teach and show us how we can safely build a house together.

Cost is \$25 plus transportation to McAllen, lodging, and nightly dinner meals.

### **AUGUST 5-12, 2025 MEXICO CITY, MEXICO**

Work with Eduk Children's ministries in providing medical treatment, education, and a service project.

Price \$800 - \$1,000 range

### **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY CITY LIGHT COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

Join us in serving meals, offering encouragement, answering phone calls, handing out mail, and building relationships with our neighbors in need.

*Now is the time to sign up!*

Please contact John Moore (325-675-8114 or [john.moore@fbcabilene.org](mailto:john.moore@fbcabilene.org)) or Beth Young (325-675-8112 or [beth.young@fbcabilene.org](mailto:beth.young@fbcabilene.org)).

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

## SPREADING LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT AT GLO DAYCARE

Opportunities to serve are all around First Baptist Church—sometimes you just have to look a little harder to find them! One wonderful way to volunteer was born from a vision Tiffany Hammer had this summer: building morale for the teachers at GLO Daycare.

Unlike elementary schools that have a PTO or PTA to support their staff, GLO Daycare doesn't have an organized group to encourage its employees. Tiffany saw this as an opportunity to incorporate volunteers from First Baptist Church to provide snacks for the teachers once a month. This simple act of kindness goes a long way in showing appreciation for their hard work.

Each month, volunteers have gotten creative with snack themes. Some months have featured coffee and donuts, while others have offered a mix of salty and sweet treats. With Valentine's Day approaching, this month's theme is all about spreading love to the daycare staff.



If you're interested in providing snacks for the 30 employees at GLO Daycare, they would be thrilled to receive them! You can contact Tiffany Hammer ([tkhammer630@hotmail.com](mailto:tkhammer630@hotmail.com)) or call the church office (325-673-5031) to speak with Beth Young or Susie Vandever. We would be more than happy to help you get involved!

## LOVE OFFERING FOR LEE CURIEL

On September 5, 1979, Lee Curiel began working at First Baptist Church as a custodian. After 45+ years of faithful service, Lee has decided to retire. On Sunday, April 6, as a church, we will be honoring Lee as he retires. As a part of saying thank you for his years of service, we will be taking up a Love Offering and presenting it to Lee on the 6th. If you would like to participate in this demonstration of love to Lee, you may bring a check marked "Lee Love Offering" on Sunday, drop it off during the week to the office, mail it, or you can also give online through the church giving portal at this link **Lee Curiel Love Offering**.



**FLOUR &  
SUGAR DRIVE**  
**THANK  
YOU**

A BIG thank you for your support of the Abilene/Callahan Baptist Social Ministries flour & sugar drive in the month of January. Because of your contributions to this drive, hundreds of households will receive these basic staples which will enable them to survive the tough times.



SAVE \$6 WITH CODE: CHURCH

# GAITHER VOCAL BAND

LOVE LIKE I'M LEAVING TOUR 2025



CHRIS BLUE

LADYE LOVE SMITH

GENE McDONALD

KEVIN WILLIAMS



**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025**  
**ABILENE, TX**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ABILENE**

GAITHER.COM

TPR.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GAITHER CONCERT**

We need volunteers on March 13 for load-in, load-out, greeting, tickets, and runners. If you would like to serve as a volunteer, contact the office of Worship and Music (325-675-8118 or [worship@fbcabilene.org](mailto:worship@fbcabilene.org)).

# YOUTH CUE 2025

Every year, some of our youth participate in a weekend trip where they get to sing with other youth choirs from around the state. This weekend is always a blast! Firstly, the students get to sing beautiful songs praising the Lord. The Bible encourages us to sing and lift up our praises to God. Hearing the students perform on Sunday morning after practicing all weekend brings joy and gladness to the heart. Way to go Caroline Harris, Landry Gibson, Paige Clark, Lauren Kate McGrew, and Lydia Draper! We are proud of your performance, but also thankful for your leadership in worship. May we all be encouraged to lift up our songs to God.



Secondly, the youth get to spend time in fellowship with one another during the course of Youth Cue. This year, we challenged ourselves with a couple of escape rooms on Saturday Night, and we enjoyed playing some board games throughout the weekend. I am grateful God gives us the chance to grow alongside one another when we spend time enjoying each other's company through food, fellowship, and games. Thank you, Todd Wilson, for leading us on another amazing trip. Thank you, Libby Gibson and Kelsey Brown, for serving as sponsors.

***"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day."  
– Psalm 96:1-2***

**HUNTER BROWN**  
Pastor for Youth







community

We had a great FIRST community weekend! A lot of good listening, learning, and community building happened. Be sure to mark your calendar for Community Weekend next year, JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2026.



# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

## CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: **584**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: **237**

COMMUNITY LUNCH: **2,300**

PRODUCE: **522**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **445**

SHOWERS: **188**

CLOTHING ITEMS: **255**

PHONE CALLS: **394**

MAIL CHECKS: **318**

FRONT DESK WALK-INS: **552**

DINING ROOM WALK-INS: **2,496**



February 2025



# HELPING STUDENTS THRIVE:

## Weekend Care Packs for Martinez Elementary

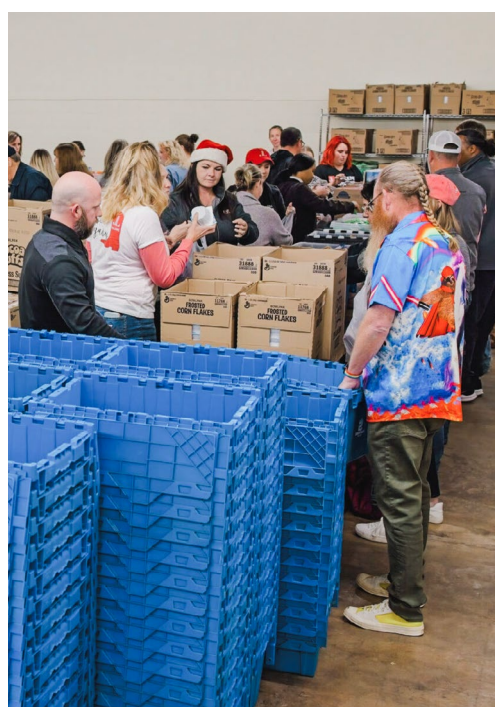
For many students, weekends can be a time of uncertainty, especially when it comes to food. While schools provide meals during the week, some children have limited access to food over the weekend. Love and Care Ministries partners with local schools to ensure students have the nourishment they need so they can return to class on Monday ready to learn.

Through their Care Pack for Kids program, Love and Care Ministries provide brand-new, high-quality food items to students with the dignity and respect they deserve. However, they can't do this alone, they rely on the support of churches, businesses, and donors to make it happen.

First Baptist Church is honored to sponsor 72 care packs each week for students at Martinez Elementary School. Our staff members take turns picking up the care packs from Love and Care Ministries and delivering them to the school every other week.

We need volunteers to help with pickups and deliveries! If you're interested in serving in this way, please contact Beth Young in the Missions' Office ([beth.young@fbcabilene.org](mailto:beth.young@fbcabilene.org) or 325-675-8112).

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these students!



# MARCH

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

March 4, 1 year  
**CYNTHIA MIXON**  
*Music Ministry Assistant*

March 19, 7 years  
**MATTHEW BROYLES**  
*Pastor for College & Young Adults*

- 1** FBC Annual Pancake Supper
- 2** Personnel Committee Meeting
- 5** Ash Wednesday Service
- 10-14** Spring Break
- 12** No Meal or Activities  
Buildings & Grounds  
Committee Meeting
- 16** Foundation Meeting  
Missions' Committee Meeting
- 18** Finance Committee Meeting  
Deacons' Meeting
- 20** Craig Middle School  
Spring Choir Concert
- 24** Ministry of Counseling  
Board Meeting
- 25** GLO Board Meeting
- 28-30** Women's Retreat/Granbury

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

February 2025

<u>Budget</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Required	\$260,010	\$532,070
Given	\$245,299	\$462,173

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



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH • ABILENE

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