

FIRST *words*

TO REACH PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST & TOGETHER BECOME MORE LIKE HIM

BIG DAY AT FIRST!

Sunday, February 5, 2023 will mark a historic day in the life of First Baptist Church, Abilene. On Sunday, Rev. Brandon Hudson will begin his ministry as Senior Pastor of FBC, Abilene. Brandon, a native of Lubbock, is married to Jill, and they have two teenage children, Sophia and Quinn. He has degrees from Texas Tech University and Truett Seminary of Baylor University. Before coming to FBC, Brandon's ministry involved five years of service as a youth pastor in Texas churches and fifteen years as a senior pastor in two churches in North Carolina and Alabama.



When asked what he loves most about ministry, Brandon said "I love people and their stories." He has a passion "to help others explore the way their stories connect to the grand narrative of God's grace through proclamation and pastoral care." Brandon also loves preaching and describes his philosophy of proclamation this way: "I approach sermons as a discovery of the intersection between the people of the congregation and the story of God. That means that it is my knowledge of the people which enables me to understand how to cater my sermons to meet the needs of the congregation as we are exploring together the wonder of God's word."

During the morning worship service, an official welcome from the deacon body and the church will be given to the Hudson family. Then, that evening, a church-wide "Burgers with Brandon" hamburger dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center gym. As a part of the evening, a guided prayer time for the Hudsons will take place.



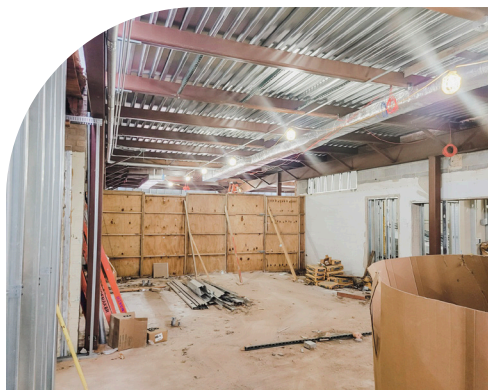
Church Wide
Hamburger Dinner
5:30 p.m. | Family Life Center Gym





HOPE CENTER UPDATE

Work on the Hope Center is continuing and progress is being made. Interior walls are being installed in the GLO area and the metal framing is being finished on the City Light building. Here are a few photos which hopefully will give a glimpse of the work being done.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The FBC Bereavement Food Ministry is looking for volunteers to join our team. This team ministers to FBC families in their loss of a loved one by providing and serving a meal on the day of the funeral/memorial service. Areas of assisting include: helping set up, providing a dish, serving, or helping clean up. The men and women of our ministry would like to invite you to join us! For more information, please contact Sarah Matthews, 509-263-3313 or Connie Peacock, 325-232-3437. We would love to talk with you about serving with us on our Bereavement Food Ministry Team.



We are still working with CarePack for Kids because of your generosity! We help pack and deliver over 150 care packs to Martinez Elementary each month to help with some of the students that struggle with very little food over the weekend.

If you would like to help volunteer during the school year to pack CarePacks (every other Tuesday for one hour) or help deliver the packs (every other Thursday for a little over an hour) we would love to have you! Contact Melinda in the church office at 325-675-8112 for more information.



CITY LIGHT VOLUNTEERS *are the best!*

This amazing group of ladies got together and wrapped plasticware for City Light! We are so thankful for all the things our volunteers do to help with this ministry. They prayed blessings over those who would use the utensils! Thank you to: Debby Brown, D'Anna Smith, Pam Bingham, Christy Robertson, Nancy Jones, Sandy Longacre, and Karen Dansby for all you do!

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE NEWS

The Abilene Reporter News featured Trevor Allen from the Friendship House as an "Everyday Hero" due to his willingness to "do good things" out of the spotlight for our community!

Read the entire article here and learn more about Trevor and his ministry with FBC!

<https://www.reporternews.com/story/news/local/2022/12/26/everyday-hero-allens-personal-experiences-fuels-desire-to-help-others/69736118007/>



The FBC college group had our annual winter retreat in Glorieta early in January. We enjoyed the skiing, good food, and some great conversations around the dinner table each evening. It's incredible to see how God is at work in the lives of our college students. We're always grateful for the privilege to stay in the church's lodge at Glorieta!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CITY LIGHT

We are, as always, focused on meeting crisis needs, feeding the hungry, building biblical community, teaching children, and helping people move out of poverty!

January 2023



4,591 MEALS SERVED

Includes MWF meals, Sunday Breakfast, Continental Breakfast, Sack Lunches, and City Light Market*



435 VOLUNTEER HOURS



34 ROCKIN MOMS

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE:



51 HOUSEHOLDS

helped with rent and utilities



144 WALK-INS

bus passes, clothing and other



146 MAIL

Delivered and checked



428 PHONE CALLS



73 SHOWERS

WHEN PEOPLE CAN RECEIVE HELP

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Showers: 9:00-11:20 a.m. | **Lunch:** 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In addition:

Sunday Breakfast: 8:15-9:00 a.m. **Worship:** 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Second Tuesday of Each Month: Rockin' Moms: Noon-1:30 p.m.

FBC MISSIONS: **ACTING IN** *love*



FBC ABILENE & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING 2023

FBC Abilene has the opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity to begin a house build on North 8th street this spring. A leadership team is being formed to help guide this project and we need your help. If you are interested in helping this leadership team or to sign up for future building times, please call the missions' office (325-675-8112). Watch for more details and exact dates about this volunteer opportunity which puts God's love into action supporting our community with hope through affordable housing!

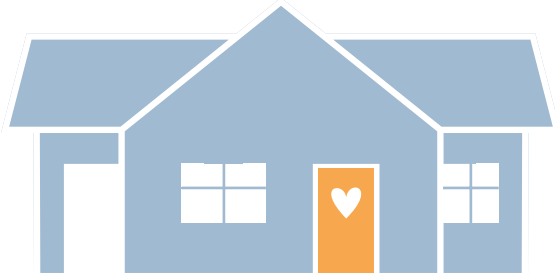
NORTH MACEDONIA JUNE 9-18, 2023

A small team is being formed to encourage and work alongside Alicia and Jeff Lee serving in Skopje, North Macedonia. The tentative dates for this project are June 9-13, or the early part of June. Costs, details, and final dates will be out soon. Begin praying about how God might be calling you to join this small team of 8 to 9 people. You can follow Jeff Lee on Facebook and Instagram to see the work they do on the farms and other ministries.

Alicia and Jeff support and help with Poraka (Adult Group Home), Skopje Food Bank, Macedonia Orphanage, Cow Farm, Children's Home (Immanuel), Cultural Immersion International Church, and a few others. Our purpose will be to do anything that best encourages their ministry. If you have any questions, call the Missions' office (325-675-8112).



4 FBC MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES COMING IN 2023



FBC FRIENDSHIP HOUSE CHILDREN'S BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB JUNE 19-22, 2023 - 9:00 TO 11:00 A.M.

A team is needed to help do a Children's Backyard Bible Club for the College Heights neighborhood at the FBC Friendship House on Orange Street.

Gina and Trevor Allen will be leading the 2nd annual Children's Backyard Bible Club and they need your help! Come join this team and be the Gospel in action to our neighbors.

Call the Missions' Office (325-675-8112) to sign up for this team. More details and meeting times will be out soon.

FBC FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO MCALLEN, TEXAS JULY 9-18, 2023

FBC Abilene will continue the partnership with Buckner International in the Texas Valley (McAllen, Texas). Maybe God is calling your family to join us on our 8th Annual FBC Family Mission Trip. We will be involved in multiple projects (construction and ministry) which will help Buckner minister to families in the Colonies. We have a long relationship with Buckner and are looking forward to being His hands and feet along with them in this ministry!



Call the Missions' Office (325-675-8112) to sign up or ask any questions.

Please begin to pray how you can be involved in any or all of these opportunities and watch for more details coming soon.

If you have questions or would like to be put on the list for any of these opportunities, please contact the Missions' Office (325-675-8112).

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

February 1, *24 years*

C. V. Blake

Pastor for Adults

February 2, *4 years*

Letisia Salcedo

Custodian

February 14, *1 year*

Kirstin Shaffer

MOCE Evening Receptionist

February 17, *23 years*

Debra Clemmer

M. A. to Pastor for Administration
& Spiritual Development

February 18, *10 years*

Erin Fahlender

MOCE Insurance Specialist

February 18, *4 years*

Joe Frush

Director for Pastoral Care

February

- 5 Personnel Committee
Burgers with Brandon – FLC
Exalt – City-wide praise night hosted by FBC
- 8 Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 10-12 Disciple Now Weekend
- 12 Recreation Board Meeting
- 19 Baptism
Missions Committee
- 21 CLCM Board
Finance Committee
Deacons' Meeting
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service
- 24-26 Youth CUE Winter Celebration/Austin
- 24-25 Women's Retreat
- 26 Lord's Supper

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

January 2023

Budget	January	Year-to-Date
Required	\$ 292,020	\$ 292,000
Given	\$ 265,036	\$ 265,036

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



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE

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