

The purpose of the First Baptist Church of Auburn is to glorify God by developing disciples who know Christ personally as prescribed in God's Word, through worship, teaching, fellowship, and outreach to our community and world.

From the Pastor ... Focus Keeps It Relevant

Does it ever get old? Does celebrating Christmas ever get old? Every year is often the same. We decorate, shop, anticipate and celebrate. These areas can be huge and elaborate or small and simple. In the area of decorating, some use thousands of lights, others are simple. Either way, the lights of the season are festive and cheerful.

Celebrations can be large or small. They can include lots of people or just a few. We can even celebrate alone, if that happens.

Regardless of the size of the preparations or displays, the focus of the season is what keeps it new.

The angel told Mary,



"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."
Luke 1:31-33

To the shepherds the angel said,

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11



The Magi (the Three Wisemen) tell Herod,



"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2

The answer to the beginning question is that "no," the season of Christmas does not get old. The decorations can be the same and the same family and friends may come gather each year. But because the focus is on the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, this time of year never gets old.

Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior, and King of kings. Whichever focus you currently zero in on, He is all of those ... and more. That makes for a holiday that is new every year.

Upcoming Events for DECEMBER

Sunday –

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
Small Group Service – 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday –

Game Time – 4:30 p.m.
15 minutes of Prayer – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday – Quilting –

10:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26 –

Thanksgiving Service – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6 –

Men's Breakfast – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 9 –

All Church Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21 –

All Church Potluck – 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24 –

Combined Christmas Eve
Candlelight service with
Mazi Church – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 30 –

Women's Breakfast at
Alex's Railside – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 28 –

Food Pantry

All Church Business Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

*If you are a member, please come to vote
on a variety of issues. YOUR input is important!*

Finances through November 16, 2025

We are currently in the BLACK! — \$56,359.94

We received \$190.00 for the NAB.

A Poem by Brandon Pawley

I Hope The Best.

My friend, I hope the best for you
And that your future dreams come true.

Although the road gets wearisome
I hope you take what is to come

With joy and peace from God above,
Who shines on you His light of love

To help you see the paths ahead
Are tools to keep you from the dead

Who want to drag you down with them
Into the deepest, darkest sin,

To keep you from His shining light
And make you look to Him with fright

Like Adam, our first father.

But God has always stayed the same,
Full of love and never shame.

He holds you in His awesome arms
His battles keep you from all harm.

Though pain and hurts we must endure,
Upon this road He makes us pure.

He teaches us to walk with Him
And trust He'll keep us all from sin.

Although we often stumble still,
It's just like climbing up a hill.

The path is weary and it's hard,
But we'll cross that final yard

To be at home with Jesus.

4 September 1991



NOVEMBER 2025

GROWTH AND INTEREST

Praises

- NAB International Missions Global Summit in Rostrevor, Northern Ireland – This was such a great event(!) as we sat under the teaching/facilitation of Australian missiologist Evelyn Hibbert and met at the YWAM Centre in the charming village of Rostrevor. Our group consisted of NAB International Missions staff, missionaries, and global missionary partners (about 25 altogether) discussing the challenging topics Hibbert brought to us in small groups that also provided unique fellowship opportunities for our diverse attendees.
- International 'Wholistic' Mission Conference (IWMC) in Durres, Albania – Praises for an amazing event that included 250 participants from over 40 countries! All were there to discuss experiences and learn more about Community Health Evangelism, which is of course the primary strategy our Hungary and Serbia partners use.
 - Seven vision trips (all facilitated by NAB Gateway) followed IWMC Albania, taking place in six different Central European and Balkan nations. Reports are still coming in, but we're hearing so far that these went really well.
- Sister-church Partnership Orientation at Missio Church in Bismarck, North Dakota – There's great opportunity and optimism at this fairly new church as they seek to intentionally move into partnership and as I work with them in doing so.
- Alberta Trip – These were a very full six days for me! And there was a lot of great feedback and interest from a variety of churches for engaging in short-term mission teams and sister-church partnerships. Whether speaking at mission conferences (Greater Edmonton Mission conference and the Central Alberta Mission conference) or leading trainings for short-term mission leaders and potential sister-church partnerships (Temple Baptist in Medicine Hat and Greenfield Community in Edmonton), there were many opportunities to engage with a variety of people and their churches!
- PRAISES from my Central Europe Field Director role in Hungary/Serbia:
 - One of the post-IWMC Albania vision trips was in Hungary, and we were very encouraged by the six participants who joined us for this experience.

Prayer

- FUSE Trips – Please continue to pray for applicants to join two upcoming Gateway FUSE Teams in Cameroon and the Philippines! (See <https://nabonmission.org/fuse> for more info or pass along this opportunity to a young person you know.) Pray for the finalization of dates for both trips.
- For all Gateway's ongoing sister-church partnerships in various stages of development and engagement in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, and Cameroon.

- For more North American churches to engage in sister-church partnerships. (Your prayers are being heard! See this month's article.)
- PRAYER REQUEST from my Central Europe Field Director role in Hungary/Serbia:
 - Laci and Eszter Daróczi-Csuhai recently resigned their director and staff positions from MEK Hungary (NAB's partner in Hungary). Please pray for Laci and Eszter and their family as they pursue God's will for them in the future.
 - Also please pray as the NAB and MEK Hungary continue to discover our way forward with ministry in Hungary (pray for me as well in this as I represent NAB Central Europe, Hungary/Serbia, as field director.)

*God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom
in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

EPHESIANS 3:10 (NLT)



Hungary vision trip



Feri and Juli Olah with Guido and Jenna Schmid (Hungary vision trip participants)

Each time I send out one of these newsletters, I list among the prayer requests an ask for more North American churches to engage in sister-church partnerships, as well as a request for all our ongoing sister-church partnerships in a variety of countries. And as I was speaking at a mission conference this past month, it's occurred to me that in some very real ways these prayers have been heard and that I want to thank you all for being faithful in bringing these requests to God.

Prayers Heard

As I mentioned above, I was in the middle of speaking at a mission conference recently when it occurred to me that both my full calendar and my full inbox are indicating that there are a lot of churches and individuals responding to the challenge of sister-church partnerships (as well as short-term mission team involvement). My mind went back about five years or so when we were all in the midst of a global pandemic. I recall sitting at my desk during this

time of lockdowns and grounded travel and contemplating whether there would be opportunities to travel again, and whether the opportunities and conditions would exist again to travel and connect with international sister-church partners.

Of course, I often share with churches that these partnerships should not only be thought of in terms of air travel and mission teams, but that it's important to engage as sister-church partners in other ways (online, etc.) and stay connected in ways that don't involve travel. But, there is no replacement for face-to-face conversation and connection, and during the COVID-19 crisis, I found it hard to imagine that the ability to travel again as we were able to pre-COVID would exist again. And it was hard to imagine that things like short-term mission trips and sister-church partnerships would exist at any level close to what they had been at before 2020.



Look at What's Happening!

So here we are, five years after the pandemic, and look at the response! We have so much to be thankful for to those who are responding to the challenge of partnership and serving, as well as being thankful for what we hope we'll see as a result of the formation of these partnerships – things like new missionaries being called and more people being involved and active in God's work around the world, especially those from the Majority World, from places that are normally looked at as receivers of ministry becoming senders of ministry themselves into the rest of the world.



MEK Hungary staff

Truly, things are moving to a place of international missions being 'from everywhere to everywhere!'

So, thank you for your continued prayers for continued growth and interest in God's global work from His global church!

For the Kingdom,

Randy Schmor

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Dear Church Family of Auburn First Baptist

It's that time of year again when we start to think of Christmas giving.

We would like to extend our giving to our wonderful Pastor, Ed Lawrence and his wife Leslie.

If you would like to donate, please see Wayne Day. Deadline is December 21.

Thank You!



Dear family and friends,

We are grateful for another time to share with you what God has been doing in our corner of the world. We hope this finds you well and getting ready for a time of Thanksgiving. We are extremely thankful for you, your prayers and your giving towards our ministry here in Mbingo. May the Lord bless you in a special way for us. Then as December comes we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus. May we prepare our hearts as that's the best gift we can give Him.

*In His Amazing Love,
Rick and Debbie*





NOVEMBER 2025

A MONTH OF THANKS

Praises

- We are thankful that elections are over.
- We are thankful for safe travel to and from our NAB retreat in Belgium. (The roads had been closed, but they opened just in time!)
- We are thankful for relative peace in our area, and schools are open.
- The church plant in Isaibal is growing and discipleship going on with new Christians.
- Rick was able to get a material that can convert 95% alcohol to 100%. This kept the supply from running out, so tissue processing was uninterrupted. Subsequently, our usual supplier was able to come through with several bottles, so now we have a back-up for times when the supplier cannot provide.

Prayer

- Pray that reactions to the election results will not be violent.
- Keep praying for patients who need to be able to get to our hospital safely and without being extorted money on the way.
- Keep praying for the end of the war (do not grow weary in doing good).
- Pray for Rose, Agnes, and Peter, some very ill patients whose prognoses aren't good unless God intervenes with a miracle. Most importantly, pray for their secure position in Jesus. We have had opportunities to share the gospel with them and their caregivers, so please pray for all.

We thank you, O God! We give thanks because you are near. People everywhere tell of your wonderful deeds.

PSALM 75:1 (NLT)



One of Mbingo 1 Church Thanksgiving services.

Greetings from Mbingo!

October and November are the months when Thanksgiving Offerings are given in our church. The focus is on First Fruits Offerings since we live in a community of primarily farmers. It's always a joyful time to dance down the aisle and bring offerings of crops, animals, and the boring type – cash. 😊

I couldn't resist the picture of the chicken enjoying the spotlight at the service, probably wondering what we were all doing there, or more importantly, what she was



doing there! Each Sunday, a different neighborhood (quarter) takes turns in leading the giving. We have about eight Sundays of Thanksgiving Offerings.



Our NAB group at retreat.

We were blessed to have to opportunity to attend our NAB retreat for the missionaries serving in Cameroon this year in Belgium. The first week in October was in Brugges, and the second week was in Brussels. We had meetings reviewing goals, evaluating previous goals, and setting new goals. It was a refreshing and encouraging time to come together and share what God had been doing and the things He is leading us in for the future. It's so easy to get tunnel vision if one only looks at life from their own position. We serve a very big God, and He is mightily at work all over Cameroon and, of course, the world! Lord, give us Your vision for Your world and what our part is!



Young Womens Group at Mbingo 1 Church after receiving their gifts.

One of our 2025 goals for our women's group at church was to visit the young women's group and encourage them as the older women. We were able to give them gifts that were provided to us by the Treasured and Protected women's group in the USA.

The hardest part of working in the health profession is accepting the fact that the medical team has done all they can do and the patient isn't responding to treatment. That is when we have to trust God for His outcome. We treat, God heals. His healing comes in different ways. It's not always the healing we prayed for, but His ways are higher than ours. The most important thing we can do is share the hope there is in knowing Jesus as Savior, the Giver of Eternal Life.

Chemotherapy is often more expensive than people can afford here. There is no insurance coverage. By Western standards, it's not very expensive, but it is still challenging here for most. If you would like to give toward subsidizing our patients' chemotherapy treatments, please click on this link and you can give online: nabconference.org/give/special-projects.



One of the patients and caregivers needing prayers (with permission).

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christ-centered Christmas!

In His Matchless Love,

Rick & Debbie Bardin

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Game Night! Every Wednesday

4:30 p.m. — in the Adult Sunday School Room

No Game Night on November 26 or December 3.

Quilting! Every Thursday

10:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m. —

No Quilting on November 27 or December 25.

Ladies' Bible Study

Monday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library

We will be in the Book of Proverbs.

Study Books are only \$10.00

For more information, please see Cindy Honold.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 6, at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Breakfast

Alex's Railside in Midland

Tuesday, December 30, at 9:00 a.m.

Auburn Parade of Lights 2025 *Christmas Movie Magic!*

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Parade starts at 6:00 pm

Celebrate your favorite Christmas movies on
our **NEW PARADE ROUTE** from Western
High School—Auburn Elementary!

- * COOKIE & HOT COCOA STATIONS
- * SANTA IN THE CLOCK PARK
- * PARKING IN OUR NEW CITY LOT!
- * BATHROOMS OPEN @ IRON GRIND

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