



January • February • March, 2026

Volume 88, Issue 1

The Trumpeter

Quarterly Newsletter for First Baptist Church Portland



**SERVING
TOGETHER**
for the good
of others.

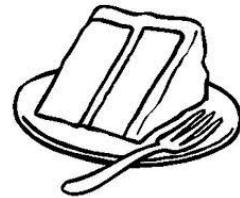
John 13:3-7

<i>Lead Pastor's Report</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Executive Pastor's Report</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Other Reports</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Cambodian Ministry Update</i>	<i>Page 10</i>

Member Birthdays

Leakana Suy.....	1/1	Darcia Hing	2/18
Nuon Suon.....	1/2	Vanny Cao	2/20
Emily Bryans.....	1/3	Sothy Prom	2/20
Ginny Fasanella.....	1/4	Rinoa French.....	2/23
Ethel Fazzolari.....	1/6	Grant Shearer.....	2/24
Damres Nem.....	1/7	Michael Johnson	2/25
Terri Reinking.....	1/8	Monika Raj	2/27
Nguon Eam	1/10		
Ann Borquist.....	1/11	Nik Jones	3/5
Sivy Luy	1/15	Norm Lawson	3/9
Mary Lynn Parodi.....	1/22	Santiago Herrera	3/25
Simon Anthony Jaworsky	1/26	Megan Johnson	3/25
Steve Bils.....	1/30	Saran Sajulan	3/30
Tommie Young.....	1/31		
 Paz Mark.....	2/1		
Canny Mark	2/2		
Sotheary Meas.....	2/3		
Sonnary Chan.....	2/7		
Somaly Suon	2/10		
Hanna Raj.....	2/12		
Vern Chartier	2/14		
Chanry Khao	2/14		

Happy Birthday! Join us during our Monthly Fellowship Meals to celebrate all who have birthdays during the month. (January 18, February 15, March 15)



PRAYER REQUESTS

Do you have a prayer request that you would like shared with our email prayer chain? If so, just contact the Church Office at 503-228-7465 or office@fbc-portland.org, Monday–Thursday, or Darcia Hing (darciahing@comcast.net) Friday–Sunday, so that we can pray for you!

Find us on the web: fbc-portland.org

Business Office: 909 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205

The next Trumpeter deadline is **March 16, 2025**.

Please send submissions to jchastain@fbc-portland.org

Matt Toupin, *Lead Pastor*

Sam Raj, *Executive Pastor*

Peter Im, *Pastor of Cambodian Ministries*

Trudi Bils, *Pastor of Worship Ministries*

Anthony Young, *Assistant Pastor of Discipleship and Next Generation Ministries*

Felicia Keo, *Associate Pastor of Cambodian Ministry*

Michele Painter, *Pastoral Ministry Intern*

Nik Jones, *Facilities Manager*

Jason Chastain, *Communications Administrator*

Raphael Mendies, *Pastoral Assistant*

Levi Toupin, *Events Coordinator*

Cory Gonzales, *Director of Worship Technology*

Trevor Warren, *Audio Video Tech*

Jack Brophy, *Drop-In Director*

Kathy Keller, *Resource Center Associate*

Michael Fraizer, *Drop-In Food Pantry Associate*

Corey Johnson, *Drop-In Associate*

Rick Keller, *On-Call Facilities Technician*

Joey Stockdale, *Security Officer*



SERVING TOGETHER for the Good of Others

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

(John 13:3-7, NKJV)

In our church, we have a unique privilege: To witness Christlike, humble, servant-leadership at work every Monday and Thursday. Through our Drop-In Ministry, led by Jack Brophy, hundreds of our neighbors receive a delicious, hot meal that is lovingly prepared by Jack and his team. These folks truly are *serving together for the good of others*, setting an example for us all, showing us what it looks like to place the needs of others of before your own. Jack and his team are taking seriously the model given to them by Jesus himself.

In the Upper Room, the night before he went to the cross, Jesus provided that model: Performing an unforgettable act of service for the benefit of his disciples when he washed their feet.

In ancient times, foot-washing was very important. People wore open-toed sandals all the time and they walked everywhere! There was no Tri-Met, no I-84, no Uber. Not only that, but the roads were dusty and covered with whatever the animals left behind. So, it was customary for people to wash their feet when they entered a house—a service that the host was supposed to supply. And it was always done by the lowliest servant in the home. In this case, however, Jesus and his disciples had borrowed the Upper Room from somebody else, so there was no actual host. So, there was nobody pre-designated to take on the foot washing task.

And yet, JESUS, who had all things under his power, and

who, though fully man was still fully God, was still willing to do the job. After all, nobody else wanted to do it! Do we see Peter getting up to do what should have been done? No. What about John, the “disciple whom Jesus loved?” No. Matthew? James? No. You don’t see any of them offering to do it and you *certainly* don’t see Judas raising his hand!

However, before judging them too harshly, put yourself in their sandals, so to speak. This was an undesirable task then and it certainly it would be undesirable for us too! But Jesus — the Master, the Teacher, the VIP, the person of *honor* in the room — rose to do the work that should have been done by a person of *dishonor*. Not only that, but he did it even for someone he knew was about to betray him.

But this wasn’t just about Jesus. In fact, the whole reason he did it was to provide a teachable moment. As he went on to say in John 13:15: *“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”* What does this mean for us at First Baptist? It means that here, in the local church, we are called to be about the business of *serving together for the good of others*.

For some of you who have been around our church for a while, these words might seem familiar. And they should, because together they comprise the 5th main line of our FBC Mission Statement. This line is important to us because it will serve as our Annual Theme in 2026.

Continued on page 4

You may recall that for the past several years, our Annual Theme has consisted of different lines of our mission statement, going all the way back to 2022. In a church, or any organization for that matter, it's helpful for folks to remember, and even memorize, if possible, the mission statement. As a refresher, here is our FBC Mission Statement:

*We are everyday people...
LOOKING UP to God for meaning in life;
REACHING OUT across cultural boundaries
with the hope of Jesus;
RAISING UP a generation in the way of Jesus;
LIVING AS FAMILY, different though we may be;
and SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others.*

There it is, our 2026 Annual Theme: SERVING TOGETHER, for the good of others. It's my hope that 2026 will be a year in which we focus on that very thing. At FBC, we have a group that helps us to do this. It's called the Servant-Leadership Team, named after the model of humble service Jesus gave us in John chapter 13. They work to connect people within the church family to different service opportunity, sometimes even nominating them for positions of leadership, including those who serve on our Diaconate Board.

But this isn't the only ministry in our church named after the significant event recorded in John 13. Even our youth and young adult ministry is named after it. Called "J.13," it's based on this significant passage of scripture as well, where Jesus modeled the idea of servant-leadership in

that moment when the perfect Son of God washed the dirty feet of his less-than-perfect disciples.

This servant-leadership model is so important, that we want to share it with everyone in our ministry, starting with those youngest among us. Why? Because young people in our society are presented with all sorts of different messages. But the church has an obligation to teach them what matters most. And that is what J.13 is all about. That is what John chapter 13 is all about for all of us. And that is what our 2026 Annual Theme is all about: **SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others.**

Not just others you like.
Not just others you agree with.
Not just others who vote like you or think like you.
Not just others among your friends and family.

There is no limit here: We are to serve *anybody* and *everybody*. We must be **SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others** without prejudice, bias, or concern whatsoever about "what's in it for me." Good old-fashioned, Christ-like, humble service. Sometimes this means being willing to serve as a volunteer helping to teach youth in the J.13 program. Sometimes it means accepting a servant-leadership role within the church. And sometimes, it means rolling up your sleeves and offering to help the Drop-In team serve a meal to those most in need in our community. Whatever it means for you, may 2026 be a year in which we all renew our commitment to be **SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others!**

—Pastor Matt Toupin

In Memorium

Our prayers and love go to the family of Ren Rath, who passed from this life on November 30, 2025. A service to celebrate his life was held on December 27, 2025. Condolences can be sent to the family c/o Ren Rath's daughter:

Phally Prom
17600 NE 122nd Ave,
Battle Ground, WA 98604

All are welcome to join us for a celebration of life service for John in the sanctuary on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Condolences can be sent to the family c/o John's daughters:

Connie Shearer
6110 SW Brugger St
Portland, OR 97219

Cheryl Hartup
9163 Calle Marina Apt C-209
Ponce, PR 00717

Our Christian sympathies go to the family of John Hartup, who went to his home in heaven on November 20, 2025.

What it Means to be a New Creature

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Let's look at the itemization of what happens when a person receives Jesus.

- 1. NEW STANDING:** We become the righteousness of God. Jesus – who never sinned – became sin for us so we might become righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). There was a trade. Jesus left heaven, was born as a human, fulfilled the Hebrew prophecies, humbled Himself, and served others.
- 2. NEW FAMILY:** We become God's children. Jesus is available to all. According to John 1:12, whoever receives Him gains the right to become children of God. This is also described as a "new birth" and that we become "new creatures." Bottom line, we were dead in our trespasses, but because of God's mercy and love, we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- 3. NEW UNDERSTANDING:** We receive

revelation. Jesus asked the question, who do men say that I am? Peter declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you...for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven" (Matthew 16:15-17). Our understanding of Jesus is not just based on philosophy, observation, book learning, or sensory input – it is revelation. God is revealing mysteries to us (Daniel 2:28-29). When we seek, we will find (Matthew 7:7).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

- 4. NEW NATURE:** We bear fruit. This verse itemizes the nine fruit of the recreated human spirit. As we walk out these characteristics that have been embedded in us through the new birth and we draw from them, we will gain ground in maturity. Take your Bible and read Galatians 5, which shows the contrast of the deeds of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

Four Ways to keep Your Thought Life Hopeful in 2026

Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

- 1. CONCENTRATE ON FORGIVENESS.** Resentment is a trap. Jesus has set the example by forgiving us completely. When teaching about faith, He makes our answered prayer dependent on forgiving everyone (Mark 11:22–25). So, we must do whatever we can to ask for forgiveness when we are in the wrong, accept an apology when given, and extend mercy even if someone doesn't say they are sorry.
- 2. DON'T BE AFRAID.** God has not given us a spirit of fear. So, realize that fear is to be resisted and replaced. Instead of that spirit, He has given us power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
- 3. WALK IN WISDOM.** "But if any of you lacks

wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). This verse is written in the context of when we are facing various trials and tests. Each of us needs wisdom in our spheres of influence, and whatever the unique situation, we can ask of God who doesn't withhold.

- 4. FOLLOW THROUGH TO THE END.** There is so much hope in the Word of God (Romans 15:4). Faithful is God who calls you; He will also do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24). He is the author and the finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2). He has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11). So don't shrink back, back down, or drift away (Hebrews 10:39). Stay diligent and don't let up (Hebrews 6:11–12). Hope does not disappoint!

— Pastor Sam Raj



CHOIRS IN HEAVEN, CHOIRS ON EARTH

Revelation 19: 1–8 begins with the Apostle John describing a powerful and moving scene of heavenly choirs singing Hallelujah, and celebrating God's salvation, glory, and justice. There will be other similar gatherings in heaven, where the redeemed praise and honor the God who saved them.

While we wait to join our brothers and sisters around the physical throne of God, we are encouraged to do the same on earth.

FBC has not enjoyed the benefits of a choir for several years now. Our demographic changes, changes to the downtown area of Portland, and even Covid, have succeeded in eliminating, momentarily, the practical workings of a choir at our church.

So, let's approach the idea of a choir differently for 2026.

If you are interested in participating in a choir ministry, here are a few things you should know.

First, you don't even have to carry a tune in a bucket!

Because God delights in our noises of praise, He accepts any and all who want to sing for His glory.

Second, you'll only be doing choir about once a month. So there won't be any big obligations to live up to.

And **third**, you'll have a blast. Howard, our organist, is funny and fun, and very qualified to lead a choir. He's excited about the prospect of working with you!

More details will follow, such as what dates the choir will sing, and when rehearsals will happen. Please stay tuned, and plan now to join in a "heavenly" choir on earth!

—Pastor Trudi Bils

J.13 Youth FBC & Region-Wide Events Calendar 2026

*Attention all students! Check out what's coming up the rest of this year.
To learn more, just reach out to Pastor Anthony.*

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

[No Event]
2/13–2/16: Winter Camp
3/15: Youth Fundraiser
4/26: Glowing Greens Mini-Golf
5/23: Beach Trip
6/7: Graduation Celebration
7/20–7/24: Summer Camp (All Ages)
8/3–8/7: J.13 Camping Retreat
9/27: Back-To-School Party
10/3: Pumpkin Patch
11/8: Bullwinkles
12/5: Christmas Party

Facilities and Building Report

I pray that you are doing well and God has blessed you as we enter a new year!

Elevator: December was a rough month already for the Facilities Management Crew. On December 8, we had some issues with the elevator that started with a random leak in our roof. Although the main concerns have been fixed, we now have some sheetrocking to do in the third level hallway.



Lighting Situation: We also now have lights that are up and going in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. We currently have a temporary fix, but a more adequate fix is around the corner. We do have a bid for a more up-to-date system, but it is something we will need to wait on until funds are more readily available.

First Responder Rest Stop: Some of you are aware that we have moved the Nursery to another part of the building. The old nursery is officially going to be transformed and turned into a First Responders Rest



Stop. This will provide a place for Police officers, and other first responders to rest, relax or do paper work. This is a much needed service in our community.

Automatic Water Shut-Off Valves: There is another thing that I would like everyone to know about. We are looking into automatic shut-off valves for our water mains. These will help preserve and save the church money in case of a bust pipe while no one is available or able to get down to the building.

As you know, our building is not only large, but old. Due to deferred maintenance, the Facilities Management Team can get stretched out thin. Many people cannot afford to give money, but giving time is just as important and precious. If you'd like more information on some projects or how you can get involved, do not hesitate to reach out and ask.

Thank you, and may God guide us in 2026 and beyond.

— **Nik Jones**

A Devotional on Love

During the Advent season, my wife and I were honored to light the fourth candle of Advent—the candle of love.

Love is one of the most frequently-used and powerful words in Scripture. The word “love” appears hundreds of times in scripture. Clearly, God wants us to understand its meaning and importance.

One passage many of us know by heart is John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (ESV)

As some of you may remember from my devotional last quarter on mercy and grace, I spoke about the moment when God revealed the ultimate mercy and grace to humanity. In a world filled with so much division and hatred, this truth is something we must keep in mind—not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the entire year.

This mercy and grace is the greatest gift we could ever receive. It is also the greatest expression of love we could ever accept.

John 3:17 continues: *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

God did not send Jesus to condemn the world or declare it hopeless. He sent His Son to bridge the gap between God and humanity, to save us, and to conquer sin, death, and hell.

It all began with the Son of God sent to earth—born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23), wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger (Luke 2:7). That humble beginning led to a hill called Golgotha, “the Place of a Skull,” where Jesus—the perfect Son of God—was crucified (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17). He was then laid in a tomb (Luke 23:53; John 19:41; Mark 15:46), and on the third day, He rose from the dead, defeating death itself (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 4:33).

This is the foundational story and the greatest depiction of love the world has ever known.

God sent His one and only Son to die on the cross so that we might be saved. That is love. And that love continues to call us—not just at Christmas, but every day of our lives.

—Nik Jones

Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Trailblazer—American Baptist Pastor

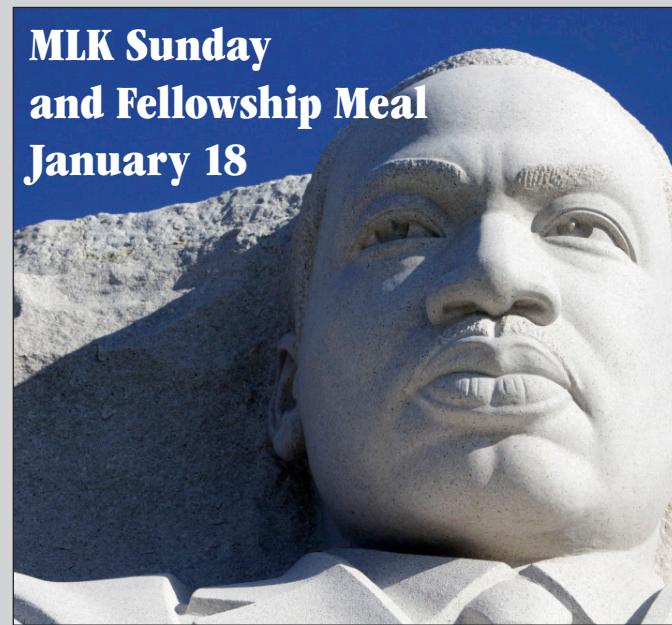
Join us for a special time of prayer and remembrance, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the English worship service on January 18, 2026.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Church Office will be closed to the public on Monday, January 19, 2026. Church members, friends, and staff are encouraged to get involved in community service on that day, in the spirit of Dr. King.

MLK Sunday

and Fellowship Meal

January 18



Join a Life Group Today!

There are so many ways to get connected with a smaller community within First Baptist Church. Our Life Groups are always open to new people. So, check out the options below and get involved today!

Cambodian Sunday School Life Group:

Sundays at 10:00 am.

FBC Cambodian Sunday School Room

(Leader: Pastor Peter)

Coffee Hour Life Group:

Third Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 pm.

Meets in Fellowship Hall

(Leader: Pastoral Team)

Table Talk:

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Join us for this Sermon-Based Life Group, which meets in the Dining Hall. All are welcome!

(Leader: Pastor Matt)

Drop-In Life Group:

Thursdays at 12:00 pm.

Meets in the Drop-In Dining Room

(Leader: Pastor Sam)

Contact the Pastor Anthony (anthony@fbc-portland.org) to learn more about a group you are interested in today!

Young Adult Life Group:

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Anyone between 18–29 years old is welcome to join this time to study the Word together and enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Youth Room.

(Leader: Pastor Anthony)

February is Assistance Ministry Month



Everyone needs a helping hand at some point in their life. Through our FBC Assistance Ministry, we are able to help members of our church and folks in the

community who are going through difficult times financially in a dignified and confidential way. Right now, however, we are in particular need of donations to this fund, in order to make sure we are able to help folks who come to us with particular needs. Please consider how you might be of help by making a donation, whether small or large, to the Assistance Ministry this February using the special envelope with the logo depicted here. You can also donate to this fund at any time of the year by marking your donation "Assistance Ministry." Thank you for your generosity to help our community!

— *FBC Missions Team*



Help Wanted: Easter Outreach Donations!

As we look forward to Easter outreach to kids and families, we need your help!

The Apprenticeship Team needs folks to provide donations of plastic easter eggs and store-bought candy. Want to help out? Just bring your donations to the "Welcome Center" or Church Office Through Thursday, March 26, at noon. Questions? Contact the Church Office via email (office@fbc-portland.org). Thank you for your support!

Cambodian Ministry News



“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)

God Who Goes Before Us

As we reflect with gratitude on our mission trip this past November, we are joyfully reminded that the Lord had already gone before us preparing the way, softening hearts, and ordering every detail according to His perfect will. Throughout the mission trip, His faithful presence continually guided, protected, and strengthened our team. As we step confidently into a new year, we give thanks for His leading and trust that the same God who went before us remains with us today and into the future.

Celebrating God’s Work in Our Church Community

In the final quarter of 2025, the Lord graciously provided many meaningful opportunities to strengthen His ministry through our church. Church members and Christian leaders from Cambodia and Canada enthusiastically participated in our Zoom Bible studies, fostering spiritual growth and cross-cultural fellowship. Our Sunday school class continued to thrive, faithfully gathering each week

to study and reflect on God’s Word led and assisted by Pastor Felicia and Mrs. Elizabeth Khem, with a warm spirit of hospitality expressed through shared breakfasts provided by the class members themselves.

A particular highlight of the season was the Christmas celebration, which began with our Thanksgiving cross cultural worship service and fellowship dinner and continued with well-organized Christmas services throughout December. These gatherings were beautifully led by our dedicated church leaders and reflected a strong spirit of unity and joy.

Although I was absent from part of these services due to the Cambodian mission trip, I was deeply encouraged to see our Cambodian leaders faithfully and creatively stewarding the ministry. They worked seamlessly with the entire church, demonstrating maturity, wisdom, and servant leadership. We praise God for the faithful spiritual nourishment provided through the ministries of Pastor Felicia Keo, Mr. Bruce Anderson, and Mrs. Elizabeth Khem.

Continued on page 12

To learn more about Cambodian Children’s Ministry, go to ccmnews.org

របាយការណ៍សប្តាហ៍ស្តីពីត្រីមាសទី១នៃឆ្នាំឆ្នី២០២៦នេះ

យើងខ្ញុំសូមអរព្រះគុណដល់ព្រះដែលប្រចាំថ្ងៃទៅព្រះបន្ទូលប្រចាំក្នុងព្រះគម្ពីរ ចោទិយកថា ៣១៖ៗ “ពីព្រះ យេហ៊ូវីដែលនឹងយាងនាំមុខនឹងទៅ ព្រមទាំងគឺជាមួយនឹងជាង”។ សូមអរព្រះគុណនូវសេចក្តីសន្យាបេស្ថ្រែង ថាទោះបីមានការអ្និតឡើងនោះក៏សូន្យទៅក្នុងការគ្រប់គ្រងរបស់ប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ ទាំងអស់ ហើយប្រចាំរក្សាការពារទាំងអស់

មណ្ឌលកុនក្នុង និងដំណើរការបេសកកម្មទៅស្រុកខ្មែរ នៅដើម្បី នៅពេលការបេសកកម្មយើងមានត្នោ ១៣នាក់ បានធ្វើដំណើរការបេសកកម្មខ្មែរ នៅមណ្ឌលកុនក្នុង។ នៅទីនោះយើងបានបង្កើតកម្មវិធីសិក្សាព្រះគម្ពីរ ជាមួយពួកគេ លេងកីឡា និងលោកស្រីកំសាន្តធ្វើដំណើរការបេសកកម្មយើង សារ ដែលតាក់ពេងខ្លួនជាក្រោន មានកម្មវិធីកក់ សក់ ចែកសំលៀកបំពាក់ និងសម្ងារ៖ សិក្សាចំនួន ៤០០ដល់ពួកគេ កំដល់សិស្សព្រះព្រះនៅក្នុមិឃ្មូយនៃខេត្តសៀមរាបដី ដើរ។ ជាមួយត្នោយើងបានចែកសាធុង ១០០ដល់ពួកជំនួយសំខាន់ខ្ពស់ ហើយមានចំណាត់ការ និងមួយបារាងដល់ពួកជំនួយ ៤ គ្រួសរិះដើរ។ យើងកំមានមួយបារាងដូចជាបំពុកជំនួយអបអរសាធារណៈដែលបង្កើតបុណ្យអរក្រៈគុណដល់ព្រះ ដែលយើងមានត្នោប្រហែល ៤៥០នាក់ ដែលមានលោកត្រូវ ម៉ែច ឬពីនិង បានចែកចាយព្រះបន្ទូលដីដើរ។ សូមអរក្រៈគុណដល់ព្រះ ដែលមានពួកជំនួយ ១២នាក់បានច្បាយខ្លួនព្រមទាំងបុណ្យប្រជុំដីកន្លែងពេលនោះ។ កម្មវិធីទាំងអស់ នោះបានលួយប្រសើរតាមជំនួយនៃអ្នកជីកនាំ និងយុវជននានានៃនៅមណ្ឌលរបស់យើង ទៅជាយើងបានដូចការលំបាក ខ្លះៗ ដែលនាំច្បាប់បានដល់សមាជិកនៃក្រុមបេសកកម្មរបស់យើងនោះកំដោយ។ ក្រុមរបស់យើងទាំងអស់បានធ្វើ ដំណើរការដល់ជ្រើនដំណើរការបេសកកម្មនៃក្រុមបេសកកម្មយើង។ យើងសូមអរគុណនូវសេចក្តីអធិស្ឋានព្រមទាំង ដង្វាយស្ថិត្រិត្តរបស់ពួកជំនួយដែលបានចូលរួមជាយើងសេចក្តីស្រឡាញពួកជំនួយរបស់ព្រះ ជ្រើនដែលការងារនៃបេសកកម្ម ដែលជាសំប្បីវិតកុនក្នុងក្នុងព្រះអម្ចាស់។ យើងសូមលើកទីកចិត្តពួកជំនួយយើងចូលរួមកម្មវិធីដែលជាក្នុងកំណត់និងការធ្វើ របាយការណ៍ដំណើរការបេសកកម្មនេះ នៅថ្ងៃអាទិត្យ ទី១៩ ខែ ៩ ឆ្នាំ២០២៦ នៅបន្ទប់បាយនៃព្រះវិហារយើង។ ប្រសិនបើពួកជំនួយយើងចង់ចូលរួមដំណើរបេសកកម្មទៅស្រុកខ្មែរត្រូវឱ្យនេះ សូមទាក់ទងនឹងខ្លួន សូមព្រះនៃយើង ប្រទានបានដើរដំឡើខ្លួនដល់ពួកជំនួយនោះត្រូវឱ្យនេះ! សូមអរគុណ!



During our trip, we received the sobering news that our beloved brother in Christ, Mr. Ren Rath, had gone home to be with the Lord. While this news brought sorrow, it also testified to the hope we have in Christ. I am grateful for the compassionate care our church family extended to his loved ones during that time. His life was joyfully celebrated on the final Saturday of the year, allowing the congregation to give thanks for his faithful service. Mr. Ren Rath was part of the Cambodian ministry from its earliest days during the refugee period of the early 1980s, and his legacy of faith continues to inspire us.

As we begin this new year, may God richly bless your family as you faithfully live out and support His ministry for His glory.

Cambodian Children Ministry: A Ministry of Hope

The Cambodian Children Ministry continues to bring hope and a bright future to the children of Cambodia. Below are highlights from the final quarter of 2025.

In early November, a mission team of 13 members, including Shirley and me, traveled to Cambodia. We are sincerely thankful for the church's generous support through a special luncheon and prayer time during worship services. God graciously answered those prayers, and the Children's Center was well prepared to welcome the team with excitement and readiness.

Our mission team was wonderfully diverse, representing different languages, ages, cultures, and professional backgrounds making this a truly unique

and unified team. We are especially grateful that Lead Pastor Matt Toupin joined us, along with my daughter Sarah, her daughter Vera, and her father-in-law, Steve Grace. Several first-time team members also joined, faithfully raising funds and preparing their hearts for service. It was a privilege to lead this team with the invaluable support of Sarah and Rosa as they grew in leadership and service.

Ministry in Action

The trip began with visits to the genocidal museums, helping the team gain a deeper understanding of Cambodia's history and the remarkable resilience of its people. Ministry at the Children's Center followed, where the team led daily Vacation Bible School programs and sports activities that joyfully engaged children and youth throughout the Center's property. During this time, 500 school supply sets were distributed to students at the Center, and an additional 75 sets were delivered to children in a remote village in Siem Reap Province. We also provided 100 sarongs to parents, meeting practical needs with dignity and care and provided used clothes to all people in the Center. A special hair-washing activity for the children, lovingly organized and supervised by our team members, brought smiles, laughter, and refreshment to many.



The team also visited fifteen children's families, offering financial assistance for medical needs and food supplies. Christmas gifts generously sponsored by our church family were distributed to staff members and the youth group, bringing great joy, encouragement, and gratitude. We rejoiced together as 12 members



of the Center were baptized, publicly declaring their faith in Christ. In addition, approximately 450 people gathered for a Thanksgiving celebration during our visit. We are especially thankful for Pastor Matt's message during the celebration, as well as for the excellent dance performances by the children and youth of the Center, offered as a heartfelt expression of praise and thanksgiving to God. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors who generously provided school supplies and gift items for the children and their parents. Your faithful generosity continues to make a lasting difference each time we serve.

Toward the end of the trip, we held a meaningful meeting with our group and the Center's leadership team, followed by a communion service and a shared meal. A special highlight was the wedding of Gary and Lissa Backman, officiated by Pastor Matt. This was the first wedding held at the Center and was a truly joyful and blessed occasion.

During this trip, we also set up an additional 10 computer sets for the Center's computer classes. This project was a direct response to a request made more than a year ago, as student enrollment in these classes has continued to grow. Last year, seven students completed

their Microsoft Office course. Because the instructor is a certified public school teacher, these students were officially approved and formally recognized by the public school in the provincial capital. This recognition is especially meaningful, as it allows students' academic achievements at the Center to be acknowledged within the public education system.

The students were thrilled and deeply encouraged to see more computers added to their classroom, opening greater opportunities for learning and skill development. We are sincerely grateful to our faithful sponsors who have consistently prayed for and generously supported this educational initiative. Your attentiveness and commitment continue to make a lasting impact on these students' futures.



Pickleball and Sports Outreach.

The children greatly enjoyed learning and playing pickleball, a new sport in Cambodia. Because the equipment and court requirements are costly, this sport is typically accessible only to middle-class schools. We are thankful for the 2024 mission team whose vision and efforts made it possible to build the

Continued on page 14



sports court and introduce this game to the children. The children and staff expressed heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors who made both the pickleball activities and the basketball court available, creating healthy, joyful opportunities for play, teamwork, and growth.

Strength Through Challenges

As with any mission, challenges arose, yet each one became an opportunity to witness God's grace and provision. After heavy rains softened the ground, our bus became stuck on the first day at the Center, resulting in a late hotel check in and a physically demanding start. Despite the fatigue, the team persevered with patience and unity.

Another challenge occurred when Sarai, a gifted and devoted young Christian from Puerto Rico who lovingly serves children through clown ministry, slipped during a large celebration and required medical attention at a nearby hospital. God's protection and care were evident throughout the situation.

During this time, we also learned of the passing of Mr. John Hartup, the father of Cheryl, a long time and faithful member of FBC. Cheryl carried these personal sorrows with remarkable faith and strength while continuing to serve others selflessly. Witnessing the history of suffering in Cambodia alongside these personal trials became a profound testimony of God's sustaining grace.

These experiences led our team to pause, pray, and seek God's direction together. We were well equipped for these moments, with three pastors, two medical directors, and many compassionate, capable team members ready to serve. Each person brought unique gifts, knowledge, and a generous spirit. I am deeply proud of this team and grateful for their love for the Lord and His mission.

Fellowship, Growth, and Safe Return

Beyond the Children's Center, the team traveled to Siem Reap to visit Angkor Wat, an enriching cultural experience enjoyed by all. Some members continued on to Phu Quoc, Vietnam, and Phnom Penh before everyone returned home safely in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with their families.



Overall, this mission trip was one of our most meaningful yet, made possible by the excellent support and service of the Children's Center staff. We thank the Lord for your faithful prayers and generous financial support.

During the trip, we evaluated the Center's leadership team and, in response to the ministry's growth, called an additional pastor and assistant leader to serve there. We also encouraged young people to remain in school, providing scholarships where needed. God continues to grow this life-changing ministry.

Shirley and I returned home safely, grateful for all that the Lord accomplished. In 2025, the BottleDrop account raised \$2,000, a wonderful testimony to your commitment to helping these children know Christ.

An Invitation to Continue the Mission

We warmly invite you to attend the mission trip report on Sunday, January 18, 2026, immediately following the worship service in the FBC Dining Hall. You will hear personal testimonies and view video highlights from the trip.

If you are prayerfully considering joining a future mission trip, please register in advance at CCMNEWS.ORG. We know your heart for this ministry. Please continue to give generously and pray faithfully for the CCM leadership team, board members, Shirley, and me.

May God grant you wisdom to do His will, strengthen your hearts for His service, and bless you abundantly in the new year.

To God be the glory!

— Pastor Peter Im

Join us for our Friends & Family Celebration!

*Sunday, February 15, 2026,
at First Baptist Church of Portland
at 10:30 am*

This is NOT a Valentine's event! Instead, it will be a time to celebrate the incredible "agape" love of God for our world. Invite a friend, a family member, or simply come as you are. Everyone will have opportunities to express commitments to make a positive difference in the lives of friends, family members, and the community. Stick around after the celebration for live music, and a delicious FREE lunch!

Fellowship! ♥ Fun! ♥ Food!

To learn more, email office@fbc-portlnd.org or follow us on Facebook

Join us for our annual “J.13 Youth Fundraiser” March 15, 12:00 pm



There will be a delicious meal & dessert provided by and served by members of our J.13 Youth Group, featuring a special time of prayer for our local and region-wide youth ministry, and an opportunity

to learn about our 4-year plan for mission trips and youth discipleship.

The meal is free but donations of any amount will go directly to the Youth Fund to help cover the costs of youth events, the upcoming J.13 mission trip to Redwood Glen Camp & Conference Center in California, and to send students of all ages to Summer Camp at Arrah Wanna in 2026. Our fundraising goal for the Youth Fund this year is \$3,000, which will help us to ensure FBC does our part to fund local and region-wide J.13 youth ministry in 2026. The overall fundraising goal for the 2025 J.13 Mission Trip is \$14,000 (which includes funding from other churches as well).

We don't want any student miss out on these awesome opportunities because they can't afford it, which is why First Baptist Church is continuing in 2026 to take a step of faith in offering 100% scholarships to any of our students who want to in camps at Arrah Wanna (families are invited to contribute as much as they can toward the cost of their students, up to 50% of the cost). We are able to do this due to the generous support of our Youth Fund in the past.

However, to help us both this year and in the future, we are inviting any and all who are able to do so, to consider making a special donation to the Youth Fund at this event. Are you able to sponsor a student? The cost for attending Winter Camp is \$275, Summer Camp is about \$400 and the cost per mission trip participant is estimated at \$700, but donations of ANY amount will be greatly appreciated!

For more information, contact Pastor Anthony at anthony@fbc-portland.org.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! Join us for the J.13 State-Wide Youth Mission Trip! March, 2025



Attention all high school students: Join us in 2026 as we embark on a mission trip to Redwood Glen Camp & Conference Center, an American Baptist mission site in Loma Mar, California. This trip will offer life-changing opportunities to help you grow in your faith, get involved in missions in a wilderness and urban setting, and roll up your sleeves to help kids, families, and our American Baptist family in Northern California! There will also be awesome opportunities to make and build friendships to last a lifetime. *(Space is limited, so apply today!)*

WHO: All students in 9th–12th grade

WHAT: A mission trip to make a positive impact for kids, youth, and the community in the redwood forests and Bay Area of Northern California

WHERE: Redwood Glen Camp
redwoodglen.com

WHEN: August 21–28, 2026
(specific dates subject to change)

HOW MUCH: \$700 (estimated cost only, to be updated as we approach the date of the trip, participants expected to help with fundraising; see Pastor Anthony)

Teaching Series for January–March, 2026

- January 4: “**New Year’s Service**”
- January 11: Exodus, Part 29 – “**A Significant Misstep**” (*Exodus 32: 1–35*)
- January 18: MLK Sunday – Exodus, Part 30 – “**A Significant Retread**” (*Exodus 33: 1–23*)
- January 25: Exodus, Part 31 – “**A Significant Renewal**” (*Exodus 34: 1–35*)
- February 1: Exodus, Part 32 – “**Day To Day In God’s Presence**” (*Exodus 35:1–40:38*)
- February 8: Galatians, Part 1 – “**Grace To You And Peace**” (*Galatians 1: 1–5*)
- February 15: Friends and Family Sunday – Galatians, Part 2 – “**No Other Gospel**” (*Galatians 1: 6–10*)
- February 22: Galatians, Part 3 – “**The Gospel Source**” (*Galatians 1: 11–24*)
- March 1: Galatians, Part 4 – “**The Gospel Endorsed**” (*Galatians 2: 1–10*)
- March 8: TBA
- March 15: J.13 Youth Sunday – Galatians, Part 5 – “**Internal Issues**” (*Galatians 2: 11–14*)
- March 22: TBA
- March 29: Palm Sunday – Galatians, Part 6 – “**Justified By Faith: I**” (*Galatians 2: 15–21*)

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We are so grateful to our church family for your marked generosity in giving to missions this past year! As you know, there were several special

fundraising drives for various purposes. With your help, we raised the following:

One Great Hour of Sharing:	\$2,400
World Mission Offering:	\$1,030
Giving to Our Missionaries (Matos, Rice, Borquist):	\$20,617
Oregon for Christ:	\$1,705
Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering:	\$255
Easter Offering: (Split 50/50 between CCM & Mission J.13)	\$1,230
Christmas Offering: (Split 50/50 between CCM & Mission J.13)	\$1,657
Cambodian Children’s Ministry (includes Christmas & Easter offering):	\$7,395
J.13 Offerings (includes participants payments and Christmas and Easter offering):	\$36,062
Assistance Ministry Offering:	\$2,850
ABC United Mission Giving:	\$2,530

We are also grateful to all who gave generously to the “Angel Tree” toy drive for children, along with all who gave generously through tithes, offerings, and special donations in 2025.

By God’s grace and with your help, FBC will continue to make a huge impact for the Kingdom of God in Downtown Portland and beyond!

—*FBC Diaconate Board & Missions Team*

Mission PDX

*We are everyday people
LOOKING UP to God for meaning in life;
REACHING OUT across cultural boundaries
with the hope of Jesus;
RAISING UP a generation in the way of Jesus;
LIVING AS FAMILY, different though we may
be; and
SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others.*

Find out what's happening at FBC-PORTLAND.ORG



Is your information current?

Have you moved, or gotten a new phone number or email address? Please fill out a Prayer/Visitor card the next time you are at the church so we may update our database.

Prayer Request and
Visitor Information Card

Name _____
Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to visit with a pastor
 I have a prayer request (use other side)

I am interested in more
information about joining FBC.

SERVICES AVAILABLE ON CD!

If you would like a copy sent to your home, please contact Jason Chastain at jchastain@fbc-portland.org or 503-228-7465 to request a copy!



We have CD players available, too. If you need delivery to your home, please let us know.

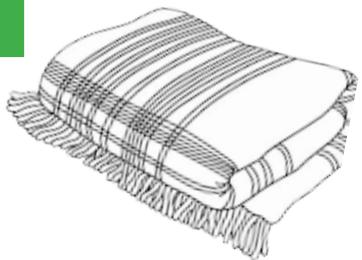
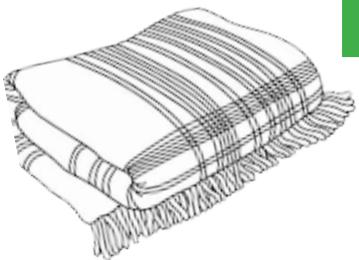
“The Path” Readings for January, February and March (Choose 1, 2, or 4 Each Day)

1/1: 1 Ch. 29, 2 Pt. 3, Mi. 6, Ps. 107
 1/2: 2 Ch. 1, 1 Jn. 1, Mi. 7, Ps. 108, Ps. 109
 1/3: 2 Ch. 2, 1 Jn. 2, Na. 1, Ps. 110, Ps. 111
 1/4: 2 Ch. 3, 2 Ch. 4, 1 Jn. 3, Na. 2, Ps. 112, Ps. 113
 1/5: 2 Ch. 5, 1 Jn. 4, Na. 3, Ps. 114, Ps. 115
 1/6: 2 Ch. 6, 1 Jn. 5, Ha. 1, Ps. 116
 1/7: 2 Ch. 7, 2 Jn. 1, Ha. 2, Ps. 117, Ps. 118
 1/8: 2 Ch. 8, 3 Jn. 1, Ha. 3, Ps. 119:1-24
 1/9: 2 Ch. 9, Jd. 1, Zp. 1, Ps. 119:25-48
 1/10: 2 Ch. 10, Re. 1, Zp. 2, Ps. 119:49-72
 1/11: 2 Ch. 11, 2 Ch. 12, Re. 2, Zp. 3, Ps. 119:73-96
 1/12: 2 Ch. 13, Re. 3, Hg. 1, Ps. 119:97-120
 1/13: 2 Ch. 14, 2 Ch. 15, Re. 4, Hg. 2, Ps. 119:121-144
 1/14: 2 Ch. 16, Re. 5, Zc. 1, Ps. 119:145-176
 1/15: 2 Ch. 17, Re. 6, Zc. 2, Ps. 120, Ps. 121, Ps. 122
 1/16: 2 Ch. 18, Re. 7, Zc. 3, Ps. 123, Ps. 124, Ps. 125
 1/17: 2 Ch. 19, 2 Ch. 20, Re. 8, Zc. 4, Ps. 126, Ps. 127, Ps. 128
 1/18: 2 Ch. 21, Re. 9, Zc. 5, Ps. 129, Ps. 130, Ps. 131
 1/19: 2 Ch. 22, 2 Ch. 23, Re. 10, Zc. 6, Ps. 132, Ps. 133, Ps. 134
 1/20: 2 Ch. 24, Re. 11, Zc. 7, Ps. 135, Ps. 136
 1/21: 2 Ch. 25, Re. 12, Zc. 8, Ps. 137, Ps. 138
 1/22: 2 Ch. 26, Re. 13, Zc. 9, Ps. 139
 1/23: 2 Ch. 27, 2 Ch. 28, Re. 14, Zc. 10, Ps. 140, Ps. 141
 1/24: 2 Ch. 29, Re. 15, Zc. 11, Ps. 142
 1/25: 2 Ch. 30, Re. 16, Zc. 12, Ps. 143
 1/26: 2 Ch. 31, Re. 17, Zc. 13, Ps. 144
 1/27: 2 Ch. 32, Re. 18, Zc. 14, Ps. 145
 1/28: 2 Ch. 33, Re. 19, Ma. 1, Ps. 146, Ps. 147
 1/29: 2 Ch. 34, Re. 20, Ma. 2, Ps. 148
 1/30: 2 Ch. 35, Re. 21, Ma. 3, Ps. 149
 1/31: 2 Ch. 36, Re. 22, Ma. 4, Ps. 150
 2/1: Gn. 1, Mt. 1, Ez. 1, Ac. 1
 2/2: Gn. 2, Mt. 2, Ez. 2, Ac. 2
 2/3: Gn. 3, Mt. 3, Ez. 3, Ac. 3
 2/4: Gn. 4, Mt. 4, Ez. 4, Ac. 4
 2/5: Gn. 5, Mt. 5, Ez. 5, Ac. 5
 2/6: Gn. 6, Mt. 6, Ez. 6, Ac. 6
 2/7: Gn. 7, Mt. 7, Ez. 7, Ac. 7
 2/8: Gn. 8, Mt. 8, Ez. 8, Ac. 8
 2/9: Gn. 9, Gn. 10, Mt. 9, Ez. 9, Ac. 9
 2/10: Gn. 11, Mt. 10, Ez. 10, Ac. 10
 2/11: Gn. 12, Mt. 11, Ne. 1, Ac. 11
 2/12: Gn. 13, Mt. 12, Ne. 2, Ac. 12
 2/13: Gn. 14, Mt. 13, Ne. 3, Ac. 13
 2/14: Gn. 15, Mt. 14, Ne. 4, Ac. 14
 2/15: Gn. 16, Mt. 15, Ne. 5, Ac. 15
 2/16: Gn. 17, Mt. 16, Ne. 6, Ac. 16
 2/17: Gn. 18, Mt. 17, Ne. 7, Ac. 17
 2/18: Gn. 19, Mt. 18, Ne. 8, Ac. 18
 2/19: Gn. 20, Mt. 19, Ne. 9, Ac. 19
 2/20: Gn. 21, Mt. 20, Ne. 10, Ac. 20
 2/21: Gn. 22, Mt. 21, Ne. 11, Ac. 21
 2/22: Gn. 23, Mt. 22, Ne. 12, Ac. 22
 2/23: Gn. 24, Mt. 23, Ne. 13, Ac. 23
 2/24: Gn. 25, Mt. 24, Es. 1, Ac. 24
 2/25: Gn. 26, Mt. 25, Es. 2, Ac. 25
 2/26: Gn. 27, Mt. 26, Es. 3, Ac. 26
 2/27: Gn. 28, Mt. 27, Es. 4, Ac. 27
 2/28: Gn. 29, Mt. 28, Es. 5, Ac. 2
 3/1: Gn. 30, Mk. 1, Es. 6, Ro. 1
 3/2: Gn. 31, Mk. 2, Es. 7, Ro. 2
 3/3: Gn. 32, Mk. 3, Es. 8, Ro. 3
 3/4: Gn. 33, Mk. 4, Es. 9-10, Ro. 4
 3/5: Gn. 34, Mk. 5, Jb. 1, Ro. 5
 3/6: Gn. 35-36, Mk. 6, Jb. 2, Ro. 6
 3/7: Gn. 37, Mk. 7, Jb. 3, Ro. 7
 3/8: Gn. 38, Mk. 8, Jb. 4, Ro. 8
 3/9: Gn. 39, Mk. 9, Jb. 5, Ro. 9
 3/10: Gn. 40, Mk. 10, Jb. 6, Ro. 10
 3/11: Gn. 41, Mk. 11, Jb. 7, Ro. 11
 3/12: Gn. 42, Mk. 12, Jb. 8, Ro. 12
 3/13: Gn. 43, Mk. 13, Jb. 9, Ro. 13
 3/14: Gn. 44, Mk. 14, Jb. 10, Ro. 14
 3/15: Gn. 45, Mk. 15, Jb. 11, Ro. 15
 3/16: Gn. 46, Mk. 16, Jb. 12, Ro. 16
 3/17: Gn. 47, Lk. 1:1-38, Jb. 13, 1 Co. 1
 3/18: Gn. 48, Lk. 1:39-80, Jb. 14, 1 Co. 2
 3/19: Gn. 49, Lk. 2, Jb. 15, 1 Co. 3
 3/20: Gn. 50, Lk. 3, Jb. 16-17, 1 Co. 4
 3/21: Ex. 1, Lk. 4, Jb. 18, 1 Co. 5
 3/22: Ex. 2, Lk. 5, Jb. 19, 1 Co. 6
 3/23: Ex. 3, Lk. 6, Jb. 20, 1 Co. 7
 3/24: Ex. 4, Lk. 7, Jb. 21, 1 Co. 8
 3/25: Ex. 5, Lk. 8, Jb. 22, 1 Co. 9
 3/26: Ex. 6, Lk. 9, Jb. 23, 1 Co. 10
 3/27: Ex. 7, Lk. 10, Jb. 24, 1 Co. 11
 3/28: Ex. 8, Lk. 11, Jb. 25-26, 1 Co. 12
 3/29: Ex. 9, Lk. 12, Jb. 27, 1 Co. 13
 3/30: Ex. 10, Lk. 13, Jb. 28, 1 Co. 14
 3/31: Ex. 11, Lk. 14, Jb. 29, 1 Co. 15

THE DROP-IN RESOURCE CENTER

JANUARY

BLANKET DRIVE



FEBRUARY

COAT/JACKET DRIVE



MARCH

SHOE DRIVE



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IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

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SERVING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS.**