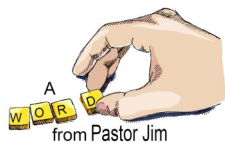




The BRIDGEBUILDER



First Baptist Church of New Albany, Indiana



from Pastor Jim

Another New Year is just around the corner. It has been my practice to talk about “New Beginnings”

in this first newsletter of the new year. This year, I thought, maybe I should talk about something else, but then I thought that we can never talk too much about New Beginnings in Jesus.

After all, very few of us can get by without His new beginnings. There may be some Christians that do not need forgiveness or new beginnings every day, but I do not know anyone like that. Most of us may not do the big sins named in the Bible, but most of us do other sins whether we want to admit them or not.

No matter what we do, God is always willing for us to start over as long as we come to Him and confess our sins. Repentance means we truly want to turn away from our sin, and we are sorry from our heart for our sin. God is always willing to give us new beginnings as we need them if we are sincere in our desire to have a new beginning. God's grace is wonderful like that! So, celebrate this time to start anew. God celebrates every time we come to Him sincerely wanting His forgiveness and a new beginning!

Pastor Jim



The Adult Choir and Bell Choir are getting some much needed time off in the month of January.

Everyone did a magnificent job with our Christmas music! What a blessing you are to me and our church!

Many thanks to the Adult choir members: Vicki Alles, Laura Anderson, Angie Ankrum, Judy Collins, Mike & Roxane Hosea, Bill Owen, Cindy Sanders and Dorine Way.

Many thanks, also, to the Bell Choir members: Vicki Alles, Mike & Roxane Hosea, Cindy Sanders.

We couldn't do worship without our AV team and Praise Team. Thanks so very much to Pete Alles and Scheryil Collins.

You all bless me every week! Thanks so much for your patience, faithfulness and dedication to the music ministry!

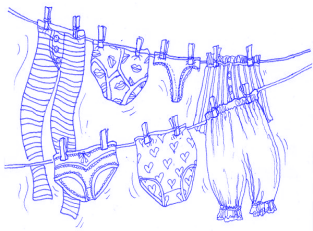
As of December 21, we sang 188 different songs as a congregation on Sunday mornings. I appreciate your willingness to learn new music and your enjoyment of the old favorites.

I'm looking forward to all the music we'll sing together in 2026!

Keep a song in your heart! *Tammie*

January's Verse of the Month: Romans 6:4 NLT

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.



***We are collecting
underwear for the
children at S. Ellen
Jones Elementary
School.***

The school keeps undergarments for the children who have accidents. The sizes needed will be announced in the January & February Sunday bulletins.

Place your donations on the Underwear Tree located in the Sanctuary vestibule. Place your monetary donations in an envelope and mark "SEJ Underwear" on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plate. This mission project ends February 28..

2025 Contribution Statements will be placed in the mail slots in the Atrium when they are finished. There will be a notice in the bulletin when they are ready.



Dear Friends, I wanted to write and express my deepest appreciation for your gift to Samaritan's Purse. Your partnership and prayers are truly a blessing and make it possible for us to bring relief and the hope of the Gospel to people who are hurting. As we relieve suffering in Jesus' Name here at home and around the world, we are so grateful for your support and prayers. May God bless you.

Sincerely, *Franklin Graham*

Many thanks to our church family for the cards, gifts, and expressions of appreciation and love. It's such a pleasure to serve the Lord with you. May God richly bless you in this new year! *Pastor Jim & Tammie*



My name is Ashley Ferguson and my kids have been going to S. Ellen Jones elementary for years, and my preschool son brought home a Christmas bag today. I would like to say thank you and that I've always appreciated everything you've done for the kids


Dear First Baptist Church, Thank you so much for your continued support of SEJ. We greatly appreciate the donation of winter hats, gloves, and the wonderful holiday goodie bags!

Merry Christmas! *Your SEJ Staff*

The simple word "thanks" is but a small token of my gratitude for your help with the 267 Christmas Gift Bags for the girls and boys at S. Ellen Jones School. It does take the entire church family and church friends to make this large mission project happen. I want to thank everyone for their time, financial support, and prayers for this special mission project. I hope that you have received as many blessings as I have because of this outreach project. God bless everyone for your help. *Scheryil*

The "Mitten Tree" was started many years ago by the Joy Circle (women's mission group). Although the Joy Circle is no longer active, the great idea of helping children in need with hats, gloves, and scarves continues to this day. I want to thank everyone for their donations of gloves, hats and scarves which will help the girls and boys stay warm this winter. We collected 226 pairs of gloves, 16 glove/hat sets, 73 hats and 3 scarves. *Scheryil*

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship				1 Office Closed 	2	3
4 Communion	5	6	7	8 6-8:00p Girl Scouts	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 NewsLetter DEADLINE 6-8:00p Girl Scouts	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 6-8:00p Girl Scouts	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 6-8:00p Girl Scouts	30	31



3 Zenel Lawless
6 Ramah Bentley
7 Suzanne Hertling
18 Ronald Collins
18 Virgil Hertling
20 Asher Ankrum

Something to brighten your day!

Why do fluorescent lights hum?
Because they forgot the words.

Why did the fish make such a good musician?
He knew his scales.

Where do pianists go on vacation?
The Florida Keys.

Why can't skeletons play church music?
They don't have any organs.

Why couldn't the string quartet find their composer?
He was Haydn.

Why was the musician arrested?
Because she got in treble.

What's a guitarist's favorite dairy product?
String cheese.

Guess how many times I've seen "The Sound of Music"? Nun.

What type of songs do planets sing?
Nep-tunes.

What makes pirates such good singers?
They can hit the high Cs.

What happened when 19 and 20 got into a fight?
Twenty-one

How do you cut a wave in half?
Use a sea saw.

What sits at the bottom of the sea and twitches?
A nervous wreck.

What do you call a story about a broken pencil?
Pointless.

Why couldn't the kid see the pirate movie?
It was rated ARR!

Why did the sun go to school?
To get brighter!

Why do magicians do so well in school?
They're good at trick questions.

What's the king of all school supplies?
The ruler.

What kind of school do you go to if you're an ice cream man?
Sundae school

What type of school does a giant attend?
High school

What's the difference between a teacher and a train?
A teacher says, "Spit out that gum!" and a train says, "Chew! Chew!"



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Newsletter

January

15

Deadline

Quarterly

Budget Report



Oct. 1—Dec. 26, 2025

Income: \$ 22,333.00
Expenses: (\$ 24,462.63)
Cash on hand: (\$ 2,129.63)