



NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Offering a seat at God's table for an adventurous life with Christ.

SERMON TOPIC FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

A Seat at the King's Table

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

OUT OF THE PULPIT

From Pastor Jim Coston

A few weeks ago, I mentioned in a previous column that I've felt and functioned as an *interim pastor* for most of this year. The word *interim* means "for a limited time" or "temporary." An interim pastor, then, is a temporary shepherd who serves a congregation between permanent pastors. That may sound odd, considering I've served here for more than nine years. Allow me to explain.

Earlier in the spring, as First Baptist engaged in some honest soul-searching about our future, I sensed God preparing the church for a new beginning. And I also sensed that this new beginning might not include me. If First Baptist were to become a campus church, I wouldn't be here. If we decided to keep running the same plays from the same playbook (to borrow a sports analogy), then it seemed clear that we might need someone else to run those plays—someone other than me.

At that point, I expected to step away from the Lead Pastor role by May. As a methodical planner, I hadn't scheduled any sermon series beyond April—something unusual for me since I usually plan a year ahead.

When the Elders decided to move forward as we are—though with renewed energy from the congregation—I was both thankful and surprised to remain as Lead Pastor. Yet that *interim feeling* didn't go away. After much prayer and conversation with trusted colleagues, I realized that feeling was from God. It wasn't about circumstances at First Baptist; it was about what God was doing in me.

I experienced something similar back in 2009, when God called me from First Baptist Trenton to Calvary Baptist in Waco. It was humbling to recognize that FBCT needed a new voice besides mine. But they did—and God provided for them, for Calvary, and for me.

What I learned then still holds true today: sometimes God makes it clear that a church needs a new voice, a different set of gifts. I believe that's where First Baptist is now. The Search Committee, with your input, is prayerfully identifying those qualities and strengths. God will guide both the church and the next pastor together in His perfect timing.

Because God has led First Baptist into a season of transition, I see myself as serving in an interim capacity. My role now is to maintain stability and momentum—to help First Baptist continue moving forward, welcoming new

people, prioritizing Sunday worship, and supporting our Staff. The difference is that I'm not making long-term decisions beyond next spring.

All of this has unfolded apart from my marriage. I sensed God calling me *from* this role before He called me *to* the next—something my marriage has now confirmed.

Please pray for First Baptist, for our Staff, and for the Search Committee—Angela, Carol, Gayle, John, Paul, Quintin, and Shawn—by name. Pray for me during this transition season. And most of all, pray for the person God is already preparing to become the next pastor of First Baptist. Ask God how He wants to use you in this time to make disciples and advance His kingdom.

Blessings,
Jim

A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF FIRST BAPTIST SCOTTSDALE

From Gary Tannenbaum

God is good! It's amazing how many positive things can happen in the life of a church in just 6 months. In the last 6 months, First Baptist has experienced a resurgence of optimism about the future direction of the church.

Here is a list of some of what has happened over the last 6 months.

- The Elder Board approved a FBScottsdale 5-year Revitalization Plan.
- The lot across the street was sold and we subsequently had a burning of the mortgage celebration.
- Members donated money for much needed new microphones for the sanctuary sound system.
- MomCo added as a ministry that provides community support for families and their young children.
- For Easter, 50 children, grades 1-5, joined us for an egg hunt and had a great time. We were able to meet members of our community that came to the event.
- The church office is now open 10am-3pm, Monday-Thursday, and is staffed by dedicated volunteers.
- After a valley wide search, the church selected Steve Culp as its new Worship Leader. Steve is regularly assisted by his wife Jamy. They both have a love for the Lord and our church, and enjoy sharing their musical talents to lift up our Lord and our spirits.
- The congregation voted in 3 new Elders:
 - Moderator (Shawn Crosier)
 - Treasurer (Paul Malin)
 - Creative Arts (James Olsen).
 - Also, the Building and Grounds Elder (Craig Hazeltine) was voted in by the board to finish the term of an Elder who moved away.
- We saw a revival of the MasterPeace Theater with the production of "New Frontiers" by young people from our church and our community. Rehearsals are in progress for a December 13th and 14th production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas".
- Continuing Conversations began, with activities featuring ice cream and potlucks after service.
- New co-leaders have continued our strong greeter ministry on Sunday mornings. We have seen many new volunteers greeting those who enter and leave church on Sundays. Training sessions have been ongoing.
- Children's Choir and other children's activities on Wednesday nights are ongoing.
- We are leasing out space on campus to assist the City of Scottsdale's growth as well as help the church financially.
- The Fall Family Fest was a big success with over 400 members of our community joining the fun. We were honored to have the band Snake Eyes play for the event. Over 70 volunteers helped make memories of God's love for the families.
- The people of our church stepped up beyond their normal giving to improve the beauty and usability of the spaces between the buildings by funding the installation of artificial turf.

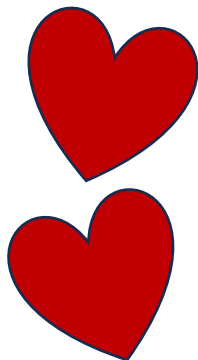
All this being said, our Lord does not want us to be complacent about our church community. He asked that we, above all, love one another and be part of a caring community of his followers. If you study the lifelines of churches, groups, and individuals, you see events take place that create alliteratively a resurgence, revival,

renaissance, rebirth, rebound, and in the case of our Lord, a resurrection. This is happening here, and there is always an open invitation to become part of the storied and continuing history of First Baptist Scottsdale. Opportunities abound. We are blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers who feel blessed to support the church and each other, and there is always room for more.

1 Thessalonians 1:3

*We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love,
And your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

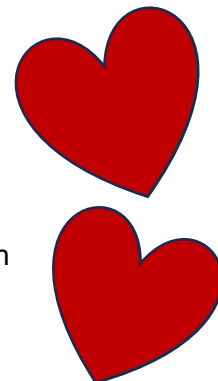
PRAISE THE LORD!



Bob and Darla Holmes are back home and Bob is recovering well. It is a long road ahead though and much of his recovery requires smoothies!

Bob and Darla have both been immeasurably generous to our community over the years; they have often taken meals to others in their same situation. We now want to love them well in their time of need.

If you would like to help support them during this time, the best way would be with grocery gift cards to Costco, Fry's, Walmart, etc. Or if you have a favorite smoothie place like Jamba Juice, Tropical Smoothie, Delight, etc., gift cards for those spots would be appreciated as well.



Please drop gift cards off in the church office. We will get them to the Holmes family.

Please continue to pray for Bob and Darla and their whole family!

LEAD PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE
From Your Pastor Search Committee

Dear First Baptist Church of Scottsdale,

First, thank you, from the pastor search committee for the trust you have placed in us this Sunday to seek a new Lead Pastor for your consideration and on your behalf.

One of our commitments as your pastor search committee is to listen carefully to the Congregation as we prayerfully seek God's wisdom and will for His Church. Please feel free to reach out to any of us, and we will be reaching out to you as well throughout this process.

To begin the process of listening, however, we would like your input over the next few weeks on a series of surveys we will be sending out covering several of the topics we feel are vital as we consider the priorities God is laying on our hearts for our next Lead Pastor.

For our first survey, we would like your input on the Spiritual Leadership, Experience, and Vision you would like to see in our next Lead Pastor. Whether you are a member, attender, or friend of First Baptist Church of Scottsdale, we value your input, wisdom, and concerns the Lord has laid on your heart as we begin this process. Please complete [Survey 1: Spiritual Leadership, Experience, and Vision here.](#)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER UPDATE
From Shawn Crosier, Elder Board Moderator

Dear First Baptist Church of Scottsdale,

Last week the Elder Board received word that the donors wishing to sponsor the construction and development of the Child Development Center would like to pause on moving forward until after we have hired and settled in a new Lead Pastor. The Elder board has agreed it is best to pause the Child Development Project while we focus on church growth and revitalization and have set benchmarks and safeguards that must be met before resuming discussions in the future. We will continue to update the Church as things change in the future.

NEW PRAYER ROOM IS OPENING



Several members of the **Hospitality Team** have worked together to repurpose the **Connection Center**—the room located just to the left of **Welcome Central** (the lobby leading to the sanctuary).

Beginning **Sunday, November 9, 2025**, this space will become a **Prayer Room** designed for individuals or small groups of **1–6 people**.

The Prayer Room will be **open on Sundays from 10:00 am until noon**, allowing time both **before and after worship** for personal prayer and reflection.

We invite you to use this space to spend time with God and bring before Him whatever is on your heart. During this season, we especially ask that you join us in **praying for First Baptist** as we begin the search for a new **Lead Pastor**.



If you would like someone to pray with you, please let a member of the **Hospitality Team** know—they would be honored to pray alongside you.

May God bless you for your faithfulness and for taking time to be in His presence.



MEET AND GREET Tuesday, November 18 6:30-8:00pm In Winfield's

Welcome
Hi!

Join us for a casual meet & greet with Rev. Brittany Camp (Lead Pastor at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Madison, AL) and her husband, our very own Jim Coston!

It will be a relaxed evening during which we'll share a few laughs, hear a bit of their story, and just spend some time together. We hope you'll stop by and say hello!

A BIG THANK YOU TO JOSH PIECZYNSKI!

For cleaning the carpet in the Welcome Center
after Fall Fest!

DELILAH NELMS

God knows our needs, and we are thankful for your time and attention!

First Baptist is blessed to have volunteers that step up to fill any needs we share.

Delilah saw a need in the office to staff the reception area. She first started filling in on days that Marcy Andre and Shandee Niswander were not available. As the two needed to pull back, because of health and a new position respectively, Delilah stepped in to handle the office staffing Monday through Thursday each week.

God has gifted Delilah, and she is comfortable reaching out to all staff and supporting their needs.



CHANENI HOUSE & YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED HELP



We are very concerned, not only for families we know, but about so many others in our community. According to federal data, almost 500,000 people receive SNAP benefits in Maricopa County alone, and these benefits have now been suspended due to the government shutdown. Recently, Chaneni House has been seeing 35 to 40 clients on each day we are open, and we can only expect that number to rise. If you can help, we would appreciate any donations, especially for the family food bags.

You may drop off donations at Chaneni House between 9 and 12 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or First Saturday, or in the wagon in the church lobby on Sunday morning. Designated monetary offerings may, of course, be made through the church.

Here are the items we include in each family food bag:

- Peanut Butter – 16 oz jar
- Corn/Green Beans – 15 oz can
- Tuna – 5 oz can
- Canned Fruit – 15 oz can
- Hunts Pasta Sauce – 24 oz jar
- Spaghetti – 16 oz package
- Kraft Mac and Cheese – 7.25 oz box
- White Rice
- Dried Pinto Beans
- Canned Soup (cream of mushroom/chicken/celery)
- Boxed Cereal
- **And, of course, always water!**

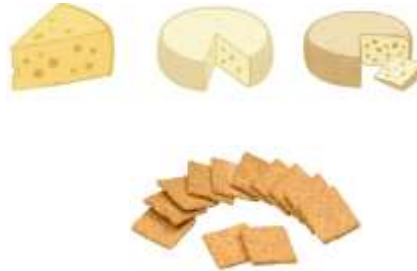
We are so thankful for all volunteers.
If God is calling you to share some of your time and your talents,
First Baptist would love to have your support.

**NOVEMBER FRIENDSGIVING
POTLUCK/LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, November 16
After Worship
In Fellowship Hall**

**Join us for a great potluck after the Youth Take Over!
Peter Frost will cook chicken and rice pilaf.**

**We need your sides and desserts!
Sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center.**



NOVEMBER 2 ATTENDANCE: 115

Giving of our tithes and offerings to God is part of worship and discipleship.

**To do this in faith, and to support God's ministry at First Baptist,
you may use any of the following ways:**

- In person using a Giving Envelope in the back of the pews
- Through the Church Center app
- Use QR code on screen or on back of Giving Envelopes
- Online at: <https://fbcs.churchcenter.com/giving>
- You may also mail checks to:

**First Baptist Church of Scottsdale
7025 E Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

Blessings!

**Tithes and Offerings received thus far in November: \$8,285 — 20% of Budget
Budgeted for November: \$40,500**

**Received Year To Date: \$305,964 — 74% of Budget
Budgeted for April through November: \$413,100**

HELP US DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Friends, we would love to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias this year. If you would like to help,

Lowe's and Home Depot will both have poinsettias on sale the day after Thanksgiving

for just \$1.00 each!

If a few of our members donate one or ten apiece, we could make the Sanctuary more beautiful than it already is.

Buy them THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING. Bring them to church on Sunday. We will keep them beautiful for Christmas.



FIRST BAPTIST SCOTTSDALE SIX-MONTH NEW TESTAMENT READING PLAN

CONTEXTUAL NOTES FOR THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Titus

Written by Paul to Titus, a Gentile convert and trusted coworker, serving on the island of Crete to instruct Titus on how to organize and lead the church in Crete, emphasizing sound doctrine, good works, and godly leadership.

Philemon

Written by Paul to Philemon, a Christian in Colossae, and his household. This is a personal letter appealing for forgiveness and reconciliation with Onesimus, a runaway slave who had become a Christian under Paul's ministry.

Themes: *Christian forgiveness and reconciliation; equality in Christ transcends social status and, the power of the gospel to transform relationships.*

Hebrews

Author unknown, though traditionally attributed to Paul. Written to Jewish Christians tempted to revert to Judaism due to persecution. The purpose of the letter is to show that Christ is superior to all aspects of the Old Covenant — the Law, priesthood, and sacrifices — and to encourage perseverance in faith.

Themes: *Jesus Christ is supreme — the final revelation of God; the New Covenant fulfills and surpasses the Old; faith, endurance, and maturity are essential in the Christian life.*

November 6	Titus 1 – 2	November 13	Hebrews 5
November 7	Titus 3	November 14	Hebrews 6
November 8	Philemon	November 15	Hebrews 7
November 9	Hebrews 1	November 16	Hebrews 8
November 10	Hebrews 2	November 17	Hebrews 9
November 11	Hebrews 3	November 18	Hebrews 10
November 12	Hebrews 4	November 19	Hebrews 11

FALL FEST RECAP

The Fall Family Festival happened on a beautiful, 70-degree night, surrounded by the sounds of distant talking, music, and laughter. Families were excited about an evening of happiness for their children. The costumes worn by the children were varied - sweet, innovative, scary, and adorable. The decorations that lined the tables for treats were cute and added to the festive atmosphere. The games added challenge and the anticipation of another prize or treat. Our cakewalk always had a line of children waiting impatiently for their turn to see the number thrown on the die to receive a cake. The pumpkin patch was a great place for a photo next to a sea of orange, and picking the right one to take home added to the fun. The evening was topped off with free hot dogs, a yummy chili contest, and chairs to enjoy Snake Eyes, the band our own John Stewart played in back in the day, who came together for a reunion concert at our festival.

First Baptist Scottsdale shared their love with the community through set-up, the evening, and take-down. God was present in it all. I already look forward to serving our community again in 2026. We add the event and God knows the impact. Pray with me that those families get curious to see what Jesus is all about on this corner, and they join us for a week. That is my prayer, because I know our natural welcoming abilities will show God's love in one visit.

We thank all of the 70+plus FBCS volunteers. Our congregation always shows up to share God's love in the best ways. Thank you for your prayers for all those who attended. We sure pray they find their way back to check out some of our class offerings and worship.

If you ever have any comments that can improve our event, feel free to email Darla at: dholmes@fbcscoottsdale.org. We want to serve God 100 percent. Add to the service of God.





UPCOMING EVENTS



TAI CHI CLASS NOW OFFERED AT FIRST BAPTIST

Begins Wednesday, November 5
7-8p
In the Dance Room



We are offering a Tai Chi class on Wednesday evenings that just began on Wednesday, November 5. You may join at any time. This class focuses, not on the combatant aspects of Tai Chi, but rather on how the movements promote a healthy mind, body, and soul.

Tai chi is often recommended for flexibility, improving balance, and preventing falls.

The class may also be promoted through the Blue Zones Project so may be an opportunity to meet others from around Scottsdale.

For more information, please contact Delilah Nelms at: nelmsdelilah@gmail.com.



GRIEF SHARE IS OFFERED AT FIRST BAPTIST

Begins Thursday, November 6, 2025
Noon-2:00pm
In the Gallery

This is a 14-week class. We ask for a \$20 donation for the workbook.

GriefShare is open to all, and you are welcome to join the class at any time
as we journey through the grief process together.

If you have any questions, please contact Darla Holmes at:
dholmes@fbcscottsdale.org

MEN'S MINISTRY POKER NIGHT

Friday, November 7

7p

In Winfield's

All men are welcome to join us!

The buy-in is \$10

We're building friendships and nurturing faith
as we play cards.

Regardless of whether you are an avid poker player
or someone who just enjoys casually playing cards,
this is a night of fellowship and fun.



LET'S CLEAN UP OSBORN ROAD!

Between Scottsdale Road and 64th Street

Saturday, November 8

8a

Meet in front of Fellowship Hall

First Baptist has adopted Osborn Road for the past
several years, and has helped to clean it up twice a year.

Gloves, safety vests, and trash bags will be supplied.

It usually takes about an hour.

Let's participate in some Creation-care by beautifying our stretch
of Osborn Road. We may meet some neighbors
and make new friends!

Join us on Saturday, November 8, at 8am for a great service opportunity while
enjoying a beautiful Arizona fall morning!



**The Pastor will be Shooting Pool
at RACK**

Wednesday, November 12

6:30p

3636 N Scottsdale Rd

He welcomes anyone who wants to join him.



**PAIUTE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD
PRAYER WALK**

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 9:30 am
FBCScottsdale, 7025 E Osborn Rd,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251



YOUTH TAKEOVER

Sunday, November 16

10:30a

In the Sanctuary

**It's time once again for the youth to take over
the church and run it for a Sunday!**

Our youth will be running everything from greeting, to tech,
to worship, to the sermon.

It will be a Sunday you won't want to miss!

P.O.W.W.O.W. RETURNS!

**Saturday, November 22
8a – 11a**

**Up to 70 lbs. of fresh produce
For a donation of \$15!!**

Invite your friends!

Share with your neighbors!



SUNDAYS AT FIRST BAPTIST

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

In the Children's Building — 9:00a-10:15a, and 10:15a-11:45a

YOUTH MINISTRY

**In the Youth Rooms — Open from 10a to 6p
10:30a – Jr. High Bible Study
4:30p–6p – Youth Worship Service**

ADULT GROW GROUP CLASS

**Conversational Evangelism
9:15a-10:15a in C-1 (Fellowship Hall)**

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30a-11:30a in the Sanctuary

WEEKLY AT FIRST BAPTIST

MONDAYS

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

7pm — Winfield's or Tempe Panera

TUESDAYS

MOMCO

First & Third Tuesday of each month

9a-11a — In Winfield's

WEDNESDAYS

WOMEN'S YOGA

5p-6p — In the Dance Room

NEW CLASS! TAI CHI

7p-8p — In the Dance Room

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S FAMILY MEAL

6p-6:20p — In Winfield's

MOMCo

6:30p-8p — In Winfield's

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (K-5th grade)

6:20p-7p — In the Choir Room

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CLASS (Pre-K-5th grade)

7p-8p — In the Children's Rooms

THURSDAYS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other Thursday

6:45a-7:45a — In Winfield's

WOMEN WHO PRAY

9:30a-11:30a — In the Gallery

GriefShare

Noon-2p — In the Gallery

ALPHA

6:30p-7:30p — In Winfield's

SATURDAYS

BLUE ZONES BOARD GAME NIGHT THROUGH NOVEMBER 29

5:30p-7:30p — In Winfield's

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE

7025 E Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Hours: Monday through Thursday — 9a–3p
480-945-6346

office@fbcscottsdale.org

CHURCH WEBSITE

<https://fbcscottsdale.church>

ELDER BOARD

elders@fbcscottsdale.org

LEADERSHIP

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John Stewart – Facilities Director
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Steve Culp – Worship Leader
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PRAYER REQUESTS

Submit prayer requests for the prayer team at:
prayers@fbcscottsdale.org
