



JUNE 25, 2026

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

Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today, and forever.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

**SERMON TITLE:
True Worship**

**SCRIPTURE:
John 4:1-42**



**TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SCOTTSDALE FAMILY
From Shawn Crosier, Elder Board Moderator**



The Elder board and I are very happy to report that at the special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of calling a lead pastor, held last Sunday, June 21, after church services, that Pastor Gary Hope was overwhelmingly approved and called to serve as our next Lead Pastor.

We welcome Pastor Hope and look forward to his leadership under our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that He will bless Pastor Hope and through him First Baptist Church of Scottsdale. As we discussed earlier and at the meeting, the elders anticipate that the search committee will be reconvened in 6 months to seek an energetic and highly committed Associate Pastor to work alongside and be mentored by Pastor Gary Hope as we look beyond the present and to the future of First Baptist Church of Scottsdale.

THE LANTERN CHURCH: GROWING BY GLOWING

From Lead Pastor Gary Hope

A year ago, Cheryl and I visited FBCScottsdale for the very first time. We were welcomed warmly and immediately connected with a family with deeper American Baptist roots and family history than ours, although we're close. We came here looking for a "church to call home." We left that morning convinced that we'd found it. Then you found us!

When I was invited to serve as interim pastor in February 2026, we discovered joy together. God began to renew our collective spirit, heal relationships, and restore hope (no pun intended!). That's what God does! He shows up and shows out! It's just like Jesus in the upper room on that first Easter, blowing the Spirit into his disciples, renewing, restoring, and giving them hope (John 20:19-23). It's a God thing! It's a Jesus thing! It's a Spirit thing! As we got better acquainted, we recognized that God's Hand had brought us together for this moment.

Now you have called me to be our next Lead Pastor. I am honored and grateful. I am humbled. I want you to know how much I love and respect this church, appreciate its rich history, members present and past, its leaders, and the wonderful staff I inherited. Every day I look forward to encountering Monica, Darla, and John in the office, planning, dreaming, listening for God's direction, and praying with them. Equally, I enjoy spending time with you all in the many groups that meet around our campus almost daily. These encounters make my joy complete.

I've been asked about my vision for this church. As we patiently and deliberately listen to God, we also eagerly prepare to move forward, together. The challenges ahead do not frighten me. I am inspired by them. There are new opportunities for us to discover and to seize. There are old ideas and visions to be re-examined. There is living hope to be shared. God's shalom is to be given. Reconciliation and harmony are to be offered. Needs are to be shared and met. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be represented and proclaimed. So, all hands on deck, pick up your lamps and swing them high for Jesus!

In 2 Timothy, 1:6, Paul encouraged Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God which is in you." The KJV translates, "stir up." The Bible teaches us that God has given this church all the gifts it needs to accomplish its purpose, which is abundantly more for the kingdom of God than this community can dream or imagine. So, whether we're starting a fire from scratch and bellowing the flames, or we're stirring up the embers of a dormant fire and blowing to revive it, let's agree to urgently pursue the plan and purpose of God for our lives and church, together.

Let's give consideration to this: being the Lantern Church is more than a recognition of our clever architectural feature, the dome of our sanctuary. Rather, we're to point to Jesus, the Light of the World. That's our job, to bring people into the light of Jesus who wants to reach this part of the world we're in. We are the church of the Lantern, and we will grow as we glow. Get out the bellows! Swing your Lantern! Join me as we let our light shine!

FOUR-PART HISTORY SERIES CELEBRATING 114 YEARS

By Shawn Crosier, church historian

Based on research by Stan Crews and Others

PART IV — Resilience, Renewal, and the Road Ahead (2010–2026)

A Church That Refuses to Give Up

The last 15 years have brought challenges no one could have predicted — declining attendance, an aging membership, a large multi-million-dollar mortgage from the last remodel, and a global pandemic that closed our doors for five months.

This is where the modern chapter begins.

The Coston Years: A Decade of Courage and Creativity

Pastor Jim Coston arrived in 2016 and quickly began working with the congregation to develop a lasting vision: “Offering a Seat at God’s Table for an Adventurous Life with Christ.”

During COVID-19, he led the church through unprecedented challenges. The church was closed to in-person worship for five months, then reopened with masks and distancing — a season that tested every congregation in America.

But the deeper challenge was long-term: years of declining attendance, an aging membership, and a mortgage that consumed too much of the budget.

By 2024, the church faced a crossroads, and three plans were presented to the congregation: merge with a much larger church to become a satellite campus, move to a new smaller location outside of Scottsdale, or prepare to close forever. A new plan began to emerge; fight for survival, renewal, and revitalization.

A Miracle in the Desert

This prospect, that after 112 years, First Baptist Church of Scottsdale might come to an end, was something many families in the church simply could not and would not accept. A team of dedicated congregants came together to begin planning how we might work together with the congregation as a whole to revitalize the church. However, one anchor weighed most heavy, the mortgage. Then came the moment that changed everything.

A parking lot the church had tried to sell unsuccessfully for 10 years suddenly found a buyer who insisted on a quick closing. The sale paid off the mortgage in full, just weeks before the congregational vote. At about the same time, several space renters stepped forward providing a significant additional source of income to use unused space, even offering to revitalize some of the spaces.

After nearly a decade of service Pastor Jim Coston stepped down at the end of January 2026. By then he had become one of the longest serving pastors in church history, during increasingly challenging times and facing unprecedented challenges to the very existence of First Baptist Church of Scottsdale.



First Baptist Church of Scottsdale in 2025 with the Lantern aglow at dusk.

A New Chapter Begins

In 2026, Pastor Gary Hope became interim pastor and on Sunday June 21st, was officially called by the congregation as our next Lead Pastor. One of his first sermon series centered on Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

It was the reminder we needed.

As we look forward to our next chapter as a church, we can rest assured of God’s love for people and for His Church. We may not always know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. If our church history tells us anything or teaches us any lessons, it is to hold firmly to God. Time and again, when our church made one plan, God had something even better in mind, and often at just the right time.

He was faithful to raise up Chaplain Winfield Scott to vision, and then Verner V.A. Vanderhoof and 5 families in his home bible study to guide the foundation of the First Baptist Church of Scottsdale. A Methodist to start a Baptist church and go on to be the first baptized by the new church.

He was faithful to provide when our first called pastor died shortly after his calling. Providing 18 Colporteur missionaries to serve as our first pastors to lead our small congregation.

He was faithful to provide a space in the basement of a building uniquely tied to the histories of FBCScottsdale, the City of Scottsdale, and the Scottsdale Unified School district until the time was ripe to build our own building.

He was faithful to provide concrete, sand, and manpower to build blocks when lumber could not be found at a reasonable price at the end of World War I, a factor that was likely appreciated during the early years of the church without air conditioning as concrete blocks are far more insulating from the heat than lumber framing.

He was faithful during the height of World War II, with many men gone to war, to bring out a pastor, even during a June heat wave, who had a heart for caring for women and children to grow our Sunday School program and our church from 50 to 225 members.

He was faithful to provide the current location at 70th & Osborn, rising up some of the most notable pastors in our church history, and seeing some of the greatest growth.

He was faithful during a time of decline and increasing challenges worldwide and to the church, to provide another of our longest serving pastors.

He was faithful when the church faced a crossroads that posed a real danger to its continuance to provide for leaders to fight for the church, the sale of a previously unsellable parking lot, and renters to provide new sources of income and stability.

He was faithful to raise up a new pastor, who was himself a visitor to the church who felt “welcomed” by the congregation, just months before being called to serve.

He will continue to be faithful, as we are called to be faithful, for He is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

This month, as we celebrate 114 years, we stand on the shoulders of:

- Pioneers who built with their own hands
- Pastors who traveled dusty roads to preach
- Families who stayed through booms and busts
- Leaders who refused to let the church die
- A God who has never once abandoned us

Our story is still being written — and the next chapter may be the most exciting yet.



First Baptist Church of Scottsdale Today

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 FBCScottsdale, you may use any of the following ways:

- In person using a Giving Envelope found 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:

**FBCScottsdale
7025 E Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**Tithes and Offerings Budgeted for June: \$45,256
Received thus far in June: \$21,757 — 48% of Budget**

**Tithes and Offerings Budgeted for April-June: \$147,081
Received thus far for April-June: \$140,351 — 79% of Budget**

JUNE 21 ATTENDANCE: 91



A special message for all the wonderful people who support our ministry with donations:

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

We are so grateful for your faithful support. However, this year is unique because the hot weather hit in March. The result is a shortage of summer clothes for the whole family with the summer ahead of us.



CAN YOU HELP?



⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.
If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;
⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;
⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;
if it is giving, then give generously;
if it is to lead, do it diligently;
if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
Romans 12:6-8

UPCOMING EVENTS

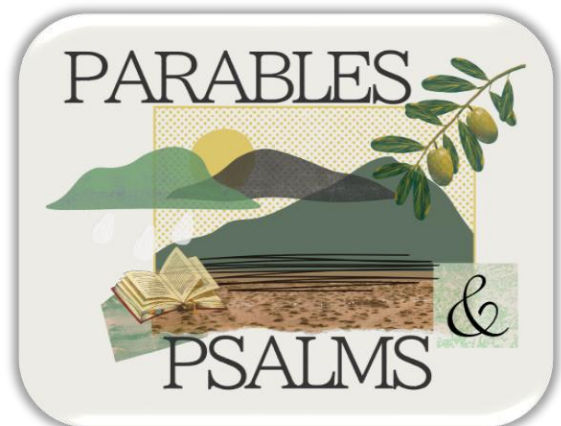
CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND HOBBYISTS!

PARABLES & PSALMS

Wednesday nights
Through July
6:30p
In Winfield's

This summer we want to explore what it means to worship God in different ways, **INCLUDING ART!**

We will read one Parable and one Psalm together and then have free time to create something inspired by either scripture.



**YOU CAN USE WHATEVER MEDIUM YOU WANT:
PAINT, DRAWING, CLAY, STRING, PIPE CLEANERS, ETC.
ALL AGES WELCOME!**



JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER CAMP
(Entering 6th grade thru leaving 8th grade)
Sunday, June 28 – Tuesday, June 30

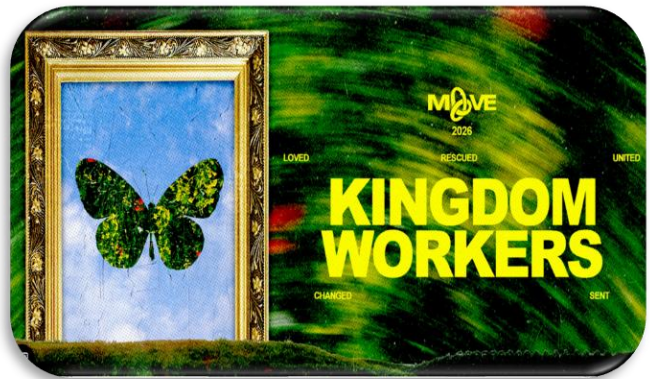
We all need a system reset this year!
A time to reconnect with God away from distractions.

We're going camping in Sedona for 3 days,
exploring the beauty of God's creation around us.

CIY HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
(Entering 9th grade thru leaving 12th grade)
Monday, July 6 through Saturday, July 11

We join CIY (Christ in Youth), a national youth organization for a week of amazing, youth focused camp.

This is a special time of worship and renewal for high schoolers. The camp is hosted by NAU in Flagstaff.



Come to meet and interact with friends new and old!

Enjoy fun, casual competition, connection,
and plenty of board and card games—
perfect for families, friends, and neighbors.

All ages are welcome.
Children's activities are included!

Snacks will be served.

SUNDAYS AT FBCSCOTTSDALE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

9:30a – Youth Grow Group

10:30a – Attend Worship in the Sanctuary

ADULT GROW GROUP CLASS

The Four Loves

By C. S. Lewis

9:15a

In Winfield's

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30a

In the Sanctuary

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Led by Arlene Freed

7p

Via Zoom

WEEKLY AT FBCSCOTTSDALE

MONDAYS

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

On Summer Hiatus

WEDNESDAYS

WOMEN'S YOGA

5p-6p — In the Dance Room

THIS CLASS IS FOR ALL AGES!

PARABLES AND PSALMS

Worshipping God through the Arts!

Bring your creativity!

6:30p-8p — In Winfield's

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

On Summer Hiatus

THURSDAYS

WOMEN WHO PRAY

On Summer Hiatus through Labor Day

GRIEFSHARE

Noon-2:30p — In the Gallery

MEN'S MINISTRY BYO LUNCH – Every other Thursday (June 11 & 25)

Noon-1p — In Winfield's

SATURDAYS

BLUE ZONE GAME NIGHT – Second Saturday of each month

5:30p-7:30p — In Winfield's

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Submit prayer requests for the prayer team at:

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