

First Baptist Church
1600 S. Main Street
Lamar, Colorado 81052
(719) 336-4953

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Organization
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Visit us on the Internet: www.lamarfbc.org

Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

8:45a Sunday School
10:00a Worship



The Messenger

Volume 54, Issue 11— NOVEMBER 2021

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday

- ♦ 8:45a Sunday School for all ages
- ♦ 10:00a Sunday Worship

Wednesday

- ♦ 11:30a Wednesday Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ 6:30p Wednesday Adult Bible Study

You can watch us live on
Sunday mornings at

lamarfbc.org

and click the link **Watch Live.**

We offer online & radio services



KLMR 920 AM
Sunday Mornings

@ 9:30



Lamar First
Baptist Church

lamarfbc.org

AWANA CLUBS



Invite your neighbors and friends to a fun filled evening of music, scripture memorization and games. Kids age 2 thru 8th grade will meet every Wednesday evening at 6:00p.



November 3rd

Backwards Night

November 10th

Operation Christmas
Child

November 17th

Thanksgiving Night

November 24th

NO CLUB

If you would like to know more about this ministry or would like to volunteer, call John Gersick at 719-252-4003.



I had someone ask me not too long ago why I'm a Baptist. The October business meeting we had last month was one of the reasons why I am a Baptist. It wasn't the food, although those were some pretty amazing soups. It wasn't the desserts, although again, wow! It was how we live out our core beliefs and in the end how we glorify God. I could not be more proud nor could I be more pleased than to be here right now.

We held a vote on whether or not to form a search committee for a full-time associate pastor. There were great questions—real questions. They were asked from the heart and it was clear that the goal was to understand and not try to trap someone with their words. It was a family meeting, for sure. Then the vote was held, and the vote ended up 77% in favor and 23% not in favor. But what happened next was what brought a tear to my eye and a lump in my throat. The deacons apparently had a little mini-meeting in the kitchen after counting the votes. Although the vote showed a majority in favor, the Deacons recognized that there were voices in our family that had concerns and they set out to address those concerns. Everyone's voice mattered.

How absolutely different than what I see in the political realms. If one side wins by one vote in the political arenas, then it's over—the winners laugh and try to force those who had reservations into submission. It's a "win-lose" scenario where the winner gets all the spoils and the loser...well loses. What the Deacons did was very much opposite of that. Concerns are heard, not discounted, even when the concerned number in the minority.

This is SO BIBLICAL! Remember when Moses sent the spies into the Promised Land? Ten of the spies came back saying, "God is clearly not in this and if He is, He's not big enough to handle this." Two said, "God said we should go, let's go!" Who got it right? It wasn't the 83% majority that got it right. Oh, how things would have been different if the 17% were heard!

One of the core values of being Baptist is that we believe in the priesthood of all saints. That means that everyone who is saved has the same amount of the Holy Spirit as the rest of the saved. We hold as a core value the autonomy of the local church. That means we don't look to denominations, regional officials, or others when we need to make decisions. We don't even look at the Pastor and say, "Tell us what to do," like he's some kind of Pope. God works through all those that make up the local church for local church affairs. That exactly what we set out to do and to honor. And I believe God was honored greatly that afternoon. If people prayed about this before voting, and I have no reason to believe you all didn't, then that vote was exactly what the Holy Spirit wanted. And there is a message in the vote. When there are concerns enough to vote no, then there is a missing piece or pieces to the puzzle. Although we don't exactly know what those missing puzzle pieces are, the Deacons recognized that there are missing pieces and have come up with a strategy to begin to discern what they are. No one was condemned for their conviction in the vote. No one was brushed aside. There will be no railroading, bullying nor "neener—neener—neenering." The Holy Spirit wasn't grieved. This is God's will on earth as it is in Heaven—or at least as close as it can get this side of Heaven!

I think one of those puzzle pieces was that I didn't communicate clearly at times. Some walked away thinking that I was disappointed in Pastor Allen, Emily and Dr. Hannah's work with the youth. That couldn't be further from the truth. They are extremely hard workers and are doing all that they can to reach the youth of our community. My point was that youth are harder to reach even in the last year. I am so proud to have them on our team. They simply cannot be replaced. And I want to make that clear. I apologize for that miscommunication. There is no plan or hope to replace our youth team with a full-time associate pastor. The request to consider a full-time associate pastor has nothing to do with them or Pastor John's hard work or Pastor Evan's hard work. We are all exceeding capacity. Initially, we may have brought these three wonderful men on board to help me. What happened is that they all found areas where nothing was being done or things were going to go undone and filled those gaps. Ministry increased powerfully but there was little relief. The workers are few and the harvest is great. There are large gaps in opportunities in our community that we still need to address. The question for us now is "how best do we address those needs?"

Continued.....

Do we bring on more staff or do we look at those in the pews and raise volunteering expectations there? Or both? I don't know that that was adequately and succinctly stated, either. My apologies.

The only way we are going to find out what lies ahead in God's will is to pray about it. The Deacons will continue to work through the "missing pieces" issue until there is peace—not just on the Deacon Board but in our family as a whole as well. And when that happens, watch out, Lamar! You have no idea what a unified church focused upon ministering to you with the power and love of God is going to accomplish in your midst.

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the church in Philippi the following words. As you read them, understand that we are in the midst of accomplishing just this:

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ any comfort from love any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same minds having the same love being in full accord and of one mind.”

Praise God! We're on our way and that business meeting was proof of it. Now, First Baptist Church, watch out. Whether we find ourselves with an associate pastor or not, God is on the move and loves our faithfulness to Him and our love and compassion for each other. What the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the church in Ephesus now comes to light:

**“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20-21)**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dave".

November Mission Emphasis

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

This month's mission emphasis is a love offering for retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses, and elderly clergy who have dedicated their lives to God's service. This offering provides support during emergency situations and a financial gift of appreciation at the end of each year.

**October 3**

Sunday School.....28

In Person Worship.....100

Radio.....9

Online.....45

Total 154

October 10

Sunday School.....33

In Person Worship.....84

Radio.....15

Online.....53

Total 152

October 17

Sunday School.....28

In Person Worship.....81

Radio13

Online.....12

Total 106

October 24

Sunday School.....30

In Person Worship.....94

Radio.....11

Online.....43

Total 148

October 31

Not recorded at time of publication.

Welcome
new members
Dixie Gatchell and
Zeke Stulp.

**Monthly Business Meeting**

Our monthly business meeting will be held on November 21st. There will be no meal, just the meeting. Our traditional Thanksgiving meal will be held on November 7th in conjunction with our pastor celebration.

HARVEST FEST IS A SUCCESS

Harvest Fest is one of the favorite events for both kids and adults. Every year we come together for fun, fellowship, and of course, good food.

Judging was difficult this year; everyone could have been a winner. The judges finally narrowed it down to the following winners.

Best Chili— Nancy Steffen

Hottest Chili— Evan Mendenhall

Best Cinnamon Rolls— Heather Reid...(but rumor has it, Dave is the pastry chief in the house and actually made the winning rolls.)

Pumpkin Decorating (18 and under)- All of the pumpkins were oohed and ahh'd over, but Gracie Stroh walked away the winner with her decorated cat pumpkin.

A lot of work goes in to putting this all together. We would like to take the time to thank everyone that had a hand in it.

To those that made the delicious chili and cinnamon rolls, and to everyone that filled our need for candy. To the contest judges, and those that helped with the bouncy house. To the decorating crew and the clean-up crew, and everyone in between. You all are a vital part of this ministry. To a job well done; here's looking forward to next year.

November 10-12**Volunteers are needed!**

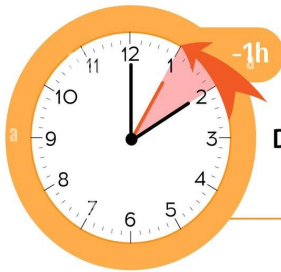
Please give Anita Larrick a call at 719-940-1266 if you would like to be a part of this ministry.





JOIN US AFTER OUR MORNING WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021
FOR OUR
PASTOR RECOGNITION & THANKSGIVING DINNER

*FOR ALL YOU DO IN JESUS' NAME...
MAY YOU BE BLESSED IN EVERYWAY.*



FALL BACK
Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 7, 2021



This year's Operation Christmas Child's Silent Auction was incredible. We had so many items donated that we were able to set up displays at both churches. We have partnered with Living Covenant Fellowship and will split the proceeds to help defray the cost of shipping and to purchase supplies for our packing parties.

The auction still has one week to go and we've already raised \$1000. The auction will run until noon on Wednesday, November 3rd. If you haven't gotten a chance to come take a look, we encourage you to do so. All of the items will be on display at FBC 10/29 thru 11/3.

I would like to give a shout out to those that donated items; Wanda Bauder, Dixie Gatchell, Benny & Polly Shumate, Heather Reid, Carol Gill, Daylight Donut, Brew Unto Others, Nelda Roberts, Marylin Gentz, Debbie Widener, Laura Burt and Cindy Hernandez. THANK YOU!



Traditionally we gather the Saturday after Thanksgiving to decorate the church for Christmas. We need an individual or group to oversee this project. Someone to set the date and time, round up volunteers to decorate, and to bring in decorations from the storage shed. If any group or individual would like to head that up this year please let Pastor Darren or Kammie know.

U R Z P L H P F V N S L R
 L C V G U L K I O T C E T
 U A Q U F L V I H N K E H
 G Y N F Y H S G K A J N A
 P N C D O E I C M B Y K N
 G R I X J E O E Q I Z G K
 T N E K H R E S I A R P S
 S F I S A L V A T I O N G
 H O P S E P I H S R O W I
 T R M O U N T A I N S R V
 P M C J D A C S H E E P I
 E E J H L S P E O P L E N
 D D H E R U T S A P P O G

Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.