

# The Sower

January 2026

[www.fbcmtown.org](http://www.fbcmtown.org)

Happy  
New Year

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Page	2
Young Adults	2
Counseling	2
Music	3
Senior Adults & LLL	3
Children & Youth Min.	4
October Preview	5
Looking Ahead	6

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## CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



January 7

7:00 PM

Free Dinner  
at 5:30

Reservation  
needed!

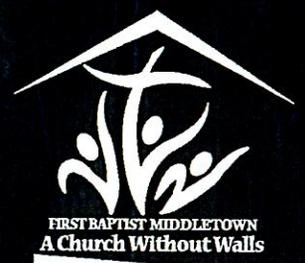


New Members Are Joining

The Cobbans are hosting a new members  
get together.

Saturday, January 17, at 5:00

Please let the church office know if you joined  
in 2024-2025, and can come to dinner.



FIRST BAPTIST MIDDLETOWN  
A Church Without Walls

## Pastor's Page

Dr. Jim Cobban



What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we had this year! The music, as always, brought joy to all of us, I know. The beautiful décor from Jean and the gang was over the top! The many events and dinners were fun and delicious. And the light show on the parking lot was "icing" on an already beautiful cake! THANK YOU to all who made the season so beautiful. And now we are into Winter and heading toward Easter! It will be here soon!

Don't think, though, that we will slow down through the cold and dark months! We are trying something brand new on Saturday night, January 31: Middletown Social Club! Social scientists have been saying for years that Americans suffer from an epidemic of loneliness. The Covid years just sped up a process that had already started: isolation. And medical research is showing profound health effects from the loneliness. So, our thinking is we all need some new friends in a non-threatening relaxed way. The first meeting will be Karaoke Night! Though I don't do karaoke, I get a kick from those who do! Bring a snack to share and join in the fun. And bring a friend or two that needs to get out of the house!

The 2026 Calendar Card is already out and available for you to hand out to your friends. The bravest thing we do is publish a calendar a year in advance – but that's what we did! We have stacks of the cards ready for you to distribute to your friends, classmates, work-out buddies, and family. Take a handful and let's get the word out that FBCM is alive and well on Main Street.

Starting on January 10, our adult mission trip will be taking off for Central Florida. The team will be working in a mostly migrant community where tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables are grown. The team will work in agricultural and construction projects. Pray for them as they go. The lives of the people there are more complicated than they were a year ago and our team is going to assist them in their work. Dr. Charles White, our pastor emeritus, heads up this mission project.

The first business meeting of the year will be Wednesday, January 7, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Two very important orders of business will be on the calendar. And dinner is FREE from Chick-fil-A! We will need a reservation; so email me at [jacobban@fbcm town.org](mailto:jcobban@fbcm town.org) or call the office at 502-245-7889.

Every voice counts!

From all the staff, we are grateful for remembering us at Christmas time with the Love Offering. We feel blessed to serve such a wonderful congregation.

Now, start practicing your song for January 31!

## Young Adults Ministry

Rev. Gabe Close

**Bible Study:** Our young adults are attending a number of different Sunday Morning Bible Study classes. The young couples class is led by a rotation of teachers (Will Reesor, Jenny Mullins, George Halitzka, and Gabe Close), Pat Rhodes is leading the Mesa class, and Dr. Cobban is leading the Fellowship class. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [gclose@fbcm town.org](mailto:gclose@fbcm town.org) and we'll help you find the best fit for you.

**Young Couple Class Fellowship:** The young couples class is having a class party on January 10th from 5-7p.m. If you are interested in getting to know class members or already attend this class, we hope you will join us. Please email [gclose@fbcm town.org](mailto:gclose@fbcm town.org) for more information.

## Counseling Ministry

Rev. Jay Close, Pastoral Counselor

Reading to kids doesn't matter.

A few church folks recently started reading to children at Middletown Elementary once a week.

But it doesn't matter.

Unless a child having an adult read to them helps them learn to read when no one at home can or will take the time

Unless a caring adult sitting with a child for a few minutes makes a difference in their self-esteem.

Unless its good for a school to see Christians doing something for free that others get paid for.

Unless teachers who can't find time to help all their kids would be blessed by a caring adult.

Unless the church wants to be known for something more than trying to get more members.

Reading to kids doesn't matter, unless...

## Greeters for January 2026!



Jan. 4:  
• Charles McHolan  
• Christine Kimmel  
• Terry Hildreth

Jan. 11:  
• Charles McHolan  
• Sharon Robinson  
• Jean Roos

Jan. 18:  
• Charles McHolan  
• Gail Millsap  
• Jamie Lewis

Jan. 25:  
• Charles McHolan  
• Linda Durkin  
• Wanda Lambdin

## The Music Ministry

Julie Halitzka, Director of Music  
and Worship



It's that time of year! The month where many have made, or will make, New Year's resolutions. These resolutions will influence how you spend your time, talents, and money in the coming year.

As you look back on the past year, and set new goals for yourself, here is a definition of worship for you to consider, taken from the book Unceasing Worship by Harold Best:

"Worship is the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing God."

This definition suggests that we all worship continuously—not just by singing, but by everything we do, with our whole lives. If we aren't worshipping other things, other modern day idols, although most of us probably wouldn't call them that. Those "gods" might be money, or power, or position, or possessions, or comfort, or influenced, or ...

[Insert whatever else the Holy Spirit just popped into your head when you read this.]

Some questions to ponder, as you set goals, and make decisions, and struggle with life choices: What is first in your mind and heart? Who are you trying to please? Does your goal fit into the framework of loving God, and loving your neighbor, as you love yourself? Do you ever allow the pursuit of your goal to be more important than anything else, including your relationship with God, or your family? And as you work toward your goals, do you extend grace to yourself, as you would to a beloved friend, when things don't go quite how you wanted them to?

Praying blessings on the pursuit of all your Godly goals this year!

### Get Involved

If your goals involve serving in any of our Music and Worship ministries, please reach out to me at [jhalitzka@fbcmntown.org](mailto:jhalitzka@fbcmntown.org)—I'd love to connect and help you find a place to use your gifts!

### Song Suggestion Box

Is there a song that is a favorite of yours, that you'd like to see used in worship services? Or for special music? Outside of the choir room on the lower level, there is a song suggestion box. Write the song on an index card and drop the idea in the suggestion box. It will be reviewed as we plan future worship services.



## Senior Adult Ministry

Lisa Harvey & Justine Rostel  
And Dr. Jim Cobban

~JoyRide - for the Joy of Christian Fellowship!!~

We hope your Christmas holidays were restful and wonderful! Now on to the future! Although we do not have a Joy Ride in January or February, we are ready to turn our attention to 2026's schedule of places to visit. Some of you have given us ideas for new places to go, as well as ones you think worthy of a return visit. Pastor, Lisa, and Justine are in the process of combining all the information. So stay tuned! The new schedule will be in next month's *Sower*. For now, enjoy these memories!



## Children's Ministry

### Susan Bowles, Associate Pastor

Happy New Year! God has blessed us with another year to love and to serve Him. As I think about what God wants from me in 2026, I look forward to loving Him and serving Him in our Church and in this community. I believe He has great things in store for us.

Isaiah 43:19 says "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness" (NLT). I believe God is creating pathways for us. I am praying for discernment, wisdom, and eyes to see what God has in store for me and for us in 2026.

Families with preschoolers, Birth-Pre K, a reminder of our policy that adults only may pick up preschoolers from classrooms. If you have questions, please let me know. We want to operate on a safety-first basis and hope that you understand.

Here are some upcoming opportunities that I hope you will save the dates for on your calendar.

January 18, 2026 Passport Camp deposits of \$60.00 are due.

February 14-March 14: Children's Drama Club by George Halitzka (see George Halitzka for more information)

March 18-Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for 2026 Camps

April 4-Children's Egg Hunt

April 12-Children and Youth Camp Lunch and Dessert Auction Fundraiser

May 23-Parent's Night Out

June 7-11-Vacation Bible School

June 14-18-Youth Passport Missions Camp

June 22-25-Childrens Passport Camp

I look forward to seeing how God will work in the lives of our preschoolers, children, and families as we continue to plant the seeds of His love in their lives.

Love and Joy, Susan

### ETC January 2026

**Jan. 4**  
**Judy Link**  
**Emily Edwards**  
**Ashley Lafleur**  
**Kim Cox**



**Jan. 11**  
**Kim Bloomer**  
**Sharon Carr**  
**Tim Sorrell**  
**Theresa Reesor**

**Jan. 18**  
**Tammy White**  
**Emily King**  
**Jim Hunter**  
**Amanda Mullins**

**Jan. 25**  
**Shannon McAdams**  
**Justine Rostel**  
**Erin Washer**  
**Terry Hildreth**

## Youth Ministries

### Directors of Student Ministries Leaders: Emily King, Jen Mullins, Tim Sorrell

As we enter the month of January, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our youth and families for a wonderful season of Uconnect. It has been a joy to see our students grow, serve, and lead together.

A special congratulations to the youth for their beautiful Christmas music offering with their handbell rendition of "Carol of the Bells." Their dedication and teamwork truly blessed our congregation.

As we look ahead to the new year, be on the lookout for emails regarding details about our Uconnect kick-off date and plans for the spring semester. We will also be in need of volunteers to provide meals for our Sunday afternoon gatherings.

Thank you again for your continued support, encouragement, and investment in our youth. We are grateful for all that God is doing through our program and look forward to what lies ahead in the new year.

Blessings, Your CLT—Jenny, Emily, and Tim



*— Live Longer and Love It!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I wonder if-- and how-- you stayed sane during December. I felt like we had a function almost every day of the month, and that was just at church! I don't know how parents and grandparents manage to get to all the school concerts, parties and other events of the season even if you have only one child! Hopefully, you had a great Christmas and can now enjoy a relaxing start to the new year.

January 7th, 12:00 is our next LLL Luncheon with guest speaker R. A. Abell. He's the very good-looking husband of Mary Ann. Our luncheon menu will be Terry's famous Pasta in a Pot, salad and a desert. Signup sheet is at the table in front of Mary's desk.

Please invite a friend and both of you come hungry!

Christine Kimmel



# January

**Thursday, Jan. 1: Happy New Year!**

**Sunday, Jan. 4: 9:45 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service**

**Wednesday, Jan. 7: 5:30 FREE DINNER! 6:30 Children's Missions Friends, Youth Missions, 7:00 Quarterly Business Meeting**

**Thursday, Jan. 8: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study**

**Saturday, Jan. 10: 5:00—7:00 Children's and Preschool Leaders Meeting**

**Sunday, Jan. 11: 9:45 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service**

**Wednesday, Jan. 14: 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Children's Missions Friends, Youth Missions, Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, Jan. 15: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study**

**Saturday, Jan. 17: 5:00—8:00 New Members Dinner at The Cobban's**

**Sunday, Jan. 18: 9:45 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service, The Lord's Supper**

**Wednesday, Jan. 21: 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Children's Missions Friends, Youth Missions, Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, Jan. 22: 10:00 Ladies Bible Study**

**Sunday, Jan. 25: 9:45 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service**

**Tuesday, Jan. 27: 12:00 LLL Lunch and Program**

**Saturday, Jan. 31: 6:00 Middletown Social Club Karaoke Night**

**First Baptist Church**  
**11721 Main Street**  
**Middletown, KY 40243**

Address Correction Requested

### **Sundays**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### **Wednesdays**

5:30 p.m. Dinner Served, Cost \$7  
6:30 p.m. Children's Activities,  
Adult Bible Study; Adult Choir.

### **Office Hours:**

**M-Th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Office Phone: 245-7889**  
**[www.fbcmtown.org](http://www.fbcmtown.org)**

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## **Sick/Well Children Healthcare Guidelines**

### **Keep Your Sick Child Home When:**

- They have had a fever, above 100, in the last 24 hours.
- They have vomited or have had diarrhea more than twice in the preceding 24 hours.
- They have diarrhea that causes accidents, is bloody, or results in greater than two bowel movements above what the child normally experiences in a 24-hour period.
- They have skin sores that are draining fluid on an uncovered part of the body and are unable to be covered with a bandage.
- They have respiratory virus symptoms that are not caused by seasonal allergies.
- They have abdominal pain for more than two hours.
- They have mouth sores with drooling that the child cannot control.
- They have behavioral changes that would keep them from participating in activities.
- They are coughing, have a sore throat, or earache.



### **Your Child May Return to Church When:**

- Your child has been fever-free for 24 hours or more, and are not taking fever reducing meds.
- Your child has had their rash evaluated by a healthcare provider.
- Your child's uncovered skin sores are crusting, and the child is under the care of a healthcare provider.
- Your child's vomiting has been resolved, and they are able to keep food and liquid down.
- Your child's diarrhea has improved, and it has been longer than 24 hours since an episode.
- Your child's respiratory virus symptoms are getting better overall, and it has been at least 24 hours.



\* Healthcare guidelines provided by the CDC and the AAP. (Feb. 12, 2025)