



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CALDWELL, IDAHO

Family Connection

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First Baptist Church*

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

By Senior Pastor Brett Siegalkoff

The Failure of Religion

In his book "Son of Hamas" Mosab Hassan Yousef tells his story of growing up as the son of a founder of Hamas (the Palestinian terrorist organization). As he grew up he saw Islam as a religion of piety and love for Allah. But as he became more involved with Muslim leaders, he realized that there was an incredible amount of duplicity amongst them. Religious leaders would call their people to take up arms against Israel and then leave them when the fighting started. They would often punish the weak and the poor simply because they had no family to take revenge for them. Over time Mosab began to realize that the piety that the religious people around him espoused was a farce. At the same time, he started reading the Bible, particularly the Gospels. As he learned more about Christ, he began to see that the way of Jesus was the only way to live in this world.

Those who see religion as the way to God but reject Christ are just as lost as the atheist. The religious may be even worse off because they do not think they have a need. The harshest words Jesus had were for the religious. Jesus exposed the problem with religion in Matthew 23:27-28, *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."* What an awful description of a person's state! This is an exhortation to us believers as well as the Christless religious people. We should not look to religion as our savior. At the essence of such a pursuit is a works-based faith that only ends in hypocrisy and deceit. The truth is we need to know Christ as our Lord and Savior. Religious exercises were never able to provide the forgiveness of God we so desperately need. Knowing Christ is our only hope from the empty cisterns of religious pursuits.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Weekly Events, Youth News, Library "Kids' Corner," February Calendar, Recommended Reading
- 3 Ministry/ Missions Spotlight: February Events
- 4 "Devotion" Gifts of poetry from our CFBC Church Family

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Family Connection is freely distributed to the CFBC congregation and friends.

At CFBC, we exist to:
WORSHIP the Lord
WALK with Believers
WORK in the Church
WITNESS to the World

Weekly at First Baptist

Sunday: 9:30am Worship Service - Communion is the first Sunday of every month.
11:15am Sunday School for all ages

Monday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm
Choir at 6:30pm

Tuesday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm
Ladies' Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 10:00am - Studying "Discovering God In the Psalms"
Men's Bible Study in Room 106 at 10:00am - Studying Genesis
Men's Bible Study in the Library at 6:30pm - Studying 1 John

Wednesday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm
Youth Bible Study at 5:30pm; Youth Group at 6:30pm
Awana at 6:20pm
Ladies' Bible Study in Library at 6:30pm - Studying "Foundations" (New Testament) by Rob and Kandi Gallaty

Thursday: Office open 8:00am-2:00pm
The Elder Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

Friday: Office closed; Pastors' and Staff day off

Dear Youth Parents,

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent youth parent meeting. We are grateful for your care and partnership in discipling our students.

Pastor Brett opened by reminding us of a core biblical principle: the primary responsibility for discipleship rests with parents. Youth ministry exists to support and equip families, not to replace discipleship in the home.

The purpose of the meeting was to communicate the direction of youth ministry moving forward and to answer questions. The current youth team includes Gavin Short, Hannah Short, Bailey Siewert, Vern Barnett, Chris Shook, Amber Shook, and Bethany Siegalkoff. Parents were invited to serve as helpers, group leaders, teachers (after vetting), and by signing up to provide snacks.

Several changes were shared. Wednesday night game time will shift toward fellowship-focused hangout time, with intentional games and space to connect. Youth Bucks Jobs will transition to Youth Jobs, where students are paid directly when applicable. Existing Youth Bucks may still be used for church activities.

Teaching will rotate among the current leaders using the Strong Students curriculum from Regular Baptist Press, beginning with the Wise Ways study through the book of Proverbs. Using a curriculum helps ensure doctrinal faithfulness and consistency while reducing the burden on volunteer teachers who balance full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and other ministries.

Summer camp plans are still being evaluated by the elders.

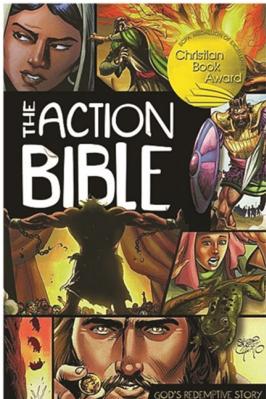
Updates will be shared via the Signal app. Please contact Hannah Short for access, or feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

In Christ, Chris Shook, Elder



Library "Kids' Corner"

Recommended Reading



Check It Out at the CFBC Library
P 220.95 CAR (4th-5th)

February 2026 Upcoming Events

February 3 New Date! Fellowship potluck at 6:00pm, followed by FIGI seminar at 7:00pm

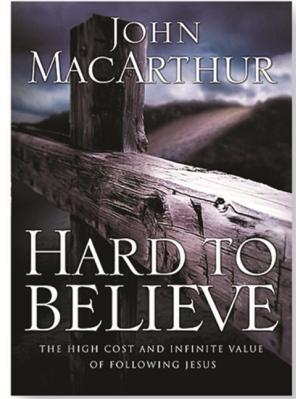
February 21 Men's Breakfast at 9:00am
Baby "Sprinkle" for Bethany Decker at 10:00am, 22391 Rams Horn Way, Caldwell

February 27 **Chili Cook-off** at 6:00pm

February 28 "Women at the Well" Women's Fellowship at 11:00am
Topic: "Women Who Worship"
Speaker: Jessecca Nevers

From the Library

Recommended Reading



Check It Out at the CFBC Library
248.4 MAC

Women's Retreat - May 15-17 at Quaker Hill

Ministry/Missions Spotlight - February Events

PRAYER

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AS WE MEET TO PRAY
FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00AM — DOWNSTAIRS IN ROOM 107



Saturday, February 21, 9:00am

FIGI - Foundations In Genesis Idaho

NEW DATE! Tuesday, February 3



All-Church Fellowship Potluck at 6:00pm;

FIGI Seminar at 7:00pm

Last name A-L, please bring a side dish; M-Z please bring a main dish. Everyone, please bring a small dessert.

Featuring Dave Glander, former atheist, now apologist and author of the Faith Survival Guide, who will be speaking on the topic "Is Jesus the Only Way to Heaven?"

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Honoring Bethany and William (Baby) Decker



Registry:

Saturday, February 21, 10:00am - Noon

22391 Rams Horn Way, Caldwell

RSVP to Lori @ 541-815-9406



Friday, February 27th, 6:00pm



- ◆ Prizes will be awarded for:
- ◆ Hottest Chili
- ◆ Most Original Chili
- ◆ Best Bread
- ◆ and more!

Sign up in the Lobby following the
morning worship service.



Women at the Well



*Join us for an encouraging time of worship,
prayer, teaching and fellowship with other
women in the church!*

*Jessecca Nevers will be sharing from the
Word on the topic "Women Who Worship."*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:00AM

in the Fellowship Hall

Childcare provided

PLEASE RSVP ONLINE



Devotion

Poetry from our Church Family

Body of the Church

Scripture tells us Jesus is the head of the church
and we are the body.

In the church body we have eyes:
the ones who see the newcomers and welcome them
and see those in need.

The ears are the ones who hear:
the confused and lonely
who listen to those who need to talk.

The mouth has a big role:
it teaches the Word
and sings praises

Now we come to the neck which makes one wonder
"what does the neck do?"

The neck supports the head

which holds up the eyes that see
the ears that hear
the mouth that teaches the Word
and praises the LORD in song
The shoulders carry the burdens of others
The arms welcome the new and comfort the hurt
The hands do the labor where they're needed
While the legs and feet move us to working for the LORD.
However, there is one part we can't see,
the Spirit that resides in each believer.
Each of us is one or more parts of this body.
What makes this body whole
are the brothers and sisters who are unified in Christ.
We are the body of the church.

Brenda Carver

Altering the Heir...

As each day begins, I step out under a name that isn't mine.

It feels too big, like a child in his father's clothes, I pull on Love like a coat that finally fits,
the final piece that holds the rest together.

A Garment owning the authority I was given but did not earn.

I am a son, a daughter, a part of the whole, anchored in gratitude by a love that functions like gravity.

The "No" of a closed door isn't rejection; it doesn't make me an orphan.

It means I am being led by the hand in a redirection.

Christ's peace steady my stride when the oversized boots of His will feel heavy on my feet.

In His presence, I find myself humming the tunes the Lord sings at His work,
learning His words as they take up residence in the pockets of my soul.

The "thank you" I offer growing from a polite gesture, to the gratitude of someone who knows they belong.

The truth of my identity isn't in pretending; it's in refusing to take off the coat.

Through repeated prayers, all the moments I persistently sought your attention, you always lifted me up.

Every "Amen" a stitch in the hem, the sleeves start to feel a little shorter, the shoulders a little tighter.

I am hand-picked, set apart, and deeply loved. I am not an imposter;

I am Your chosen child, growing into Your image until the fit is finally perfect.

I don't just wear the clothes of Your love, kindness, and humility;

I inhabit them with the authority of all You designed me to be, bearing Your name.

-By Bill Chittenden 1-26-26 (my inspiration was from a growth group question about "how God uses us, even when we aren't in the position we think we are in," thinking of Colossians 3:12-17 and how God "Tailors us.")