



# The Trumpeter

A Publication of First Baptist Church Portland, Oregon



## A TIME FOR NEW THINGS

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”  
(2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)*

A new year brings with it an opportunity to look at what God calls us to do with fresh vision and a renewed passion for the Gospel. Recently, I’ve been reflecting on the various ways people can connect with the ministry of First Baptist Church of Portland, whether they are long-time members or brand-new visitors. It can be intimidating especially for a newer person to really connect with a church family that has a history as long as First Baptist.

As I’ve pondered this with some of our staff and leaders, we have really come to the conclusion there are four primary ways in which people can get connected at First Baptist, four “onramps” if you will. Read on to learn about each one:

### 1. LIFE GROUPS

Through our Life Groups we show our *commitment to growth* (Luke 10: 38–42). These small group Bible studies meet at different times, in different places, and in different ways (in-person or online). Our hope is to provide every way necessary for people to connect with a small group of folks to develop friendships, pray for each other, and study the Bible together. Our Life Group ministry resumes the week after January 14, 2024. Join us at 11:00 am on

Tuesdays at the church for our *Prayer Life Group*. Or, join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays for our *Sermon-Based Life Groups* that happen both on Portland’s East Side and West Side. To learn more about how to get connected to these or other opportunities, just email our Assistant Pastor of Discipleship and Next Generation Ministries, Anthony Young ([anthony@fbc-portland.org](mailto:anthony@fbc-portland.org)).

### 2. MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Through our Monthly Fellowship Meals, we show our *commitment to one another* (1 Corinthians 11: 17–34). Usually (but certainly not always) on the third Sunday of each month, these are great opportunities to make new friends, catch up with old friends, and just enjoy an uplifting time of fellowship. I hope you can join us for the next one which will be on “MAKE IT CLEAR” Sunday, which will be at 12:15 pm on January 28. To learn more, just contact our Executive Pastor, Rev. Sam Raj ([sraj@fbc-portland.org](mailto:sraj@fbc-portland.org)).

### 3. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Through our Sunday Worship Services, we show our *commitment to God* (Hebrews 10:19–25). As you may recall, we are splitting the English worship service

*Continued on page 2*

into two main components, called the “Classical Service” and the “Celebration Service.” Here’s how things will work each week as we begin 2024:

**Classical Service (10:30 am)** For those who prefer traditional styles of worship (the great old hymns, responsive readings, a Bible-based message, a more liturgical approach to worship, and the ability to get to lunch by noon), this is for you! It starts at 10:30 am every Sunday and then goes until about 11:10 am. Feel free to head on into your day, or stay on for the Celebration service!

**Celebration Service (11:00 am)** For those who prefer non-traditional styles of worship (guitars, drums, and a more free-flowing approach to worship, along with a Bible-based message), this is for you. It starts at about 11:00 am every Sunday and usually goes until about noon. Yep, you’ll notice that there is an overlap between the Classical Service and the Celebration Service. That’s because we want to encourage worshippers of all varieties to have the opportunity to mingle together. In fact, although you are welcome to not arrive until 11am, we also encourage you to check out the Classical Service that happens beforehand. To learn more about worship at FBC, just email our Pastor of Worship, Trudi Bils (tbils@fbc-portland.org).

#### 4. DROP-IN

Through Drop-In, we show our *commitment to the community* (Matthew 6:1-4). For over forty years, this outreach ministry of our church has fed thousands of people, distributed tons of food and clothing, and helped countless individuals find their way out of life

on the street and/or come to faith in Christ. Drop-In, which is open 2:00 – 4:00 pm every Monday and Thursday, along with the Resource Center, is one of the most accessible ministries to those who live in our neighborhood, whether they are in need of material help, or are just looking for a sense of community and a place to belong. To learn more, just contact our Executive Pastor, Rev. Sam Raj (sraj@fbc-portland.org).

As we start this New Year, we want to invite everyone to join us for church, regardless of which of the four “onramps” above work for you! It just isn’t the same without you, so we really hope you will *grow* with us, *fellowship* with us, *worship* with us, and *serve* with us in 2024. And don’t forget to get the word out also to your friends, families, neighbors, and really everyone!

It is my heartfelt desire to help every member and friend of FBC to be blessed by this ministry as we seek to also be a blessing to others. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for First Baptist and Downtown Portland!

Blessings,

—*Pastor Matt Toupin*

### In Memorium

Our Christian sympathies go to the family of Rev. Bruce Rich, who went to his home in heaven on Christmas Day, 2023. After many, many years of faithful ministry, he had reached the age of 91 years on this earth.

A memorial service will be held at "Hope Fellowship of Hillsboro," located at 5215 SE Golden Rd. Hillsboro, OR 97123. The service will be on January 20th, 2024 at 2pm with a reception to follow.

Find us on the web: [fbc-portland.org](http://fbc-portland.org)

Business Office: 909 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205

The next Trumpeter deadline is **March 18, 2024**.

Please send submissions to [jchastain@fbc-portland.org](mailto:jchastain@fbc-portland.org)

Matt Toupin, *Pastor*

Sam Raj, *Executive Pastor*

Peter Im, *Pastor of Cambodian Ministries*

Trudi Bils, *Pastor of Worship Ministries*

Anthony Young, *Assistant Pastor of Discipleship and Next Generation Ministries*

Pat Forrester, *Facilities Manager*

Jason Chastain, *Communications Administrator*

Levi Toupin, *Events Coordinator*

Cory Gonzales, *Senior Audio Video Tech*

Gabe Plesha, *Audio Video Tech*

Hanna Raj, *Audio Video Tech*

Jack Brophy, *Drop-In Director*

Kathy Welty, *Resource Center Associate*

Michael Fraizer, *Drop-In Food Pantry Associate*

Corey Johnson, *Drop-In Associate*

# Member Birthdays

Caroline Agbetunein.....	1/1
Cassandra Soum.....	1/1
Stephen Suon.....	1/1
Leakana Suy.....	1/1
Nuon Suon.....	1/2
Emily Bryans.....	1/3
Sandee Maslen.....	1/4
Ethel Fazzolari.....	1/6
Caleb Pagulayan.....	1/6
Damres Nem.....	1/7
Joe Miles.....	1/8
Terri Murphy.....	1/8
Judith Sutterlin.....	1/9
Ann Borquist.....	1/11
Eric Lee.....	1/14
Salisa Williams.....	1/14
Sivy Luy.....	1/15
Alex Mendez.....	1/15
Carmen Pasley.....	1/17
Zoe Beard.....	1/18
Chloe Manning.....	1/20
Kylee Manning.....	1/20
Mary Lynn Parodi.....	1/22
Sandra Montgomery.....	1/23
Simon Anthony Jaworsky.....	1/26
Adelaide Andrews.....	1/28
Ryan Lofland.....	1/28
Jeanny Monterrosa.....	1/28
John Moseley.....	1/28
Steve Bils.....	1/30
Cory Lofland.....	1/31
Kevin Lofland.....	1/31
Tommie Young.....	1/31
Paz Mark.....	2/1
Canny Mark.....	2/2
Sotheyary Meas.....	2/3
Ted Fischer.....	2/6
Yom Huon.....	2/6
Sonnary Chan.....	2/7
Somaly Suon.....	2/10
Julissa Mark.....	2/11
Katie Koch.....	2/12
Hanna Raj.....	2/12
Vern Chartier.....	2/14

Chanry Khao.....	2/14
T.K. Olson.....	2/14
Ren Rath.....	2/15
Rachel Ruiz-Tamay.....	2/16
Davin Evans.....	2/17
Darcia Hing.....	2/18
Tara Casper.....	2/19
Vanny Cao.....	2/20
Sothy Prom.....	2/20
Ron Callahan.....	2/22
Rinoa French.....	2/23
Grant Shearer.....	2/24
Michael Johnson.....	2/25
Jeanette Oberfoell.....	2/27
Ester Mejias Lofland.....	3/5
Colleen Pittinger.....	3/7
Glory Prom.....	3/7
Norm Lawson.....	3/9
Jessica Jenkins.....	3/10
Gabe Velasquez.....	3/11
Sam Luy.....	3/13
Joe Casper.....	3/15
Julie Leback.....	3/15
Julia Johnson.....	3/17
Carol Ratzlaf.....	3/21
Santiago Herrera.....	3/25
Megan Johnson.....	3/25
Vera Van Grace.....	3/27
Jean Alviar.....	3/28
Maddie Newton.....	3/30
Saran Sajulan.....	3/30
Sharon Young.....	3/30

**“Happy Birthday!**  
**Join us during our**  
**Monthly Fellowship**  
**Meals to celebrate all**  
**who have birthdays**  
**during the month.**  
**(January 28,**  
**February 11, March 31)**



# Embrace the New Year with Confidence

Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, “I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!” So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently say, “The Lord is my Helper [in time of need], I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?” Hebrews 13:5–6 (AMP)

**I. GOD IS WITH YOU.** You are not alone. I love the verse above – it talks about being free from preoccupation with material things and instead trusting the source of your provision – God – who will never fail you. The most precious treasure in our lives is our relationship with God. Let’s get enthusiastic about Him and sow daily toward this wonderful connection.

**II. GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE.** “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can [mere] man do to me?” (Psalm 118:6 AMP). God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn or reject us, but so we might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him (John 3:17).

**III. GOD IS IN YOU.** “He who is in you is greater than he (Satan) who is in the world [of sinful mankind]” (1 John 4:4b AMP). There are over 100 verses on being “in Christ” or “Christ in us” – take time to study this wonderful truth!

**IV. GOD IS UPON YOU.** “The Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you” (Isaiah 60:2). When God’s presence gets on us, things change. People could tell that John and Peter had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

This is what it’s all about – being filled with the Spirit and going out and being His witnesses (Acts 1:8).

**V. GOD IS BESIDE YOU.** “The Lord stands beside me like a great warrior” (Jeremiah 20:11a NLT). There’s an invincibility to the tone of this. He is right there beside you, so you will not be moved (Psalm 16:8).

**VI. GOD IS BENEATH YOU.** “The eternal God is a hiding place, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27a). God is a safety net for us. He’s not doing fake trust falls. He is the solid rock, the chief cornerstone, the eternal stable one, who is abiding and present in your situation.

**VII. GOD GOES BEFORE YOU.** “You have enclosed me behind and before, And [You have] placed Your hand upon me.” (Psalm 139:5 AMP). God does more than stay a step or two ahead. He dwells in eternity and knows more about the future and the end of a thing than we do about the beginning.

**VIII. GOD HAS YOUR BACK.** “You will not leave in a hurry, running for your lives. For the Lord will go ahead of you; yes, the God of Israel will protect you from behind (Isaiah 52:12 NLT). Another translation calls Him “your rear guard” (NKJV). Having a rear guard is important because the devil loves to bring up past failures and sins to us. But the blood of Jesus has truly cleansed us and given us a fresh, new beginning. You can trust God, stand on His promises, and go into the new year with confidence, knowing that Jesus has your back!

Happy New Year!

—*Pastor Sam Raj*

## Pray this Prayer:

God, thank You for being with me. You will never fail or abandon me. I say with confidence, You are my helper, so I will have no fear! I repent of everything I need to repent of and receive the redemptive work of

what Jesus did. I draw near to You. May this year be everything You desire and have designed. Help me not to be distracted but to be sensitive to you. I trust You today, in Jesus' name, Amen.



# Classical & Celebration Services Are Back!

As we start this New Year, we want to invite everyone to join us for church! It just isn't the same without you, so we really hope you will worship with us in 2024 and get the word out also to your friends, families, neighbors, and really everyone!

Today we resume our regular worship schedule. As you may recall, we are splitting the English worship service into two main components, called the "Classical Service" and the "Celebration Service." Here's how things will work each week as we begin the year.

**Classical Service (10:30am).** For those who prefer traditional styles of worship (the great old hymns, responsive readings, a Bible-based message, a more liturgical approach to worship, and the ability to get to lunch by noon), this is for you! It starts at 10:30am every Sunday and then goes until about 11:10am. Feel free to head on into your day, or stay on for the Celebration service!

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Can't wait to see everyone at church in-person or online this week as we embark on the adventure of a New Year together!

Many blessings,

—*Pastor Matt Toupin*



## Missions Corner

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your hospitality you offered us during our visit.

We appreciate your ongoing support and prayers for us and our ministry in Oaxaca, Mexico. We give God glory that your church has increased your support.

Your giving allows us to respond to God's call and bring the gospel to the people of Oaxaca. We can't wait to begin building relationships and trust with our partners at COBAMI (Cooperación Baptista

Misionera Mesoamericana/Mesoamerican Missionary Baptist Cooperation).

Blessings,

—*The Matos Family*



# ANNOUNCING FBC'S 2024 ANNUAL THEME!

*"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*  
(Ephesians 4:12)

As we enter a new year, 2024 brings with it the promise of new opportunities to serve God and our community as we move forward in accomplishing the mission to which we've been called. It's a good time to remember what we're here for, our "MISSION PDX:"

We are everyday people  
**LOOKING UP** to God for meaning in life;  
**REACHING OUT** across cultural boundaries with the hope of Jesus;  
**RAISING UP** a generation in the way of Jesus;  
**LIVING AS FAMILY**, different though we may be; and  
**SERVING TOGETHER** for the good of others.

Each line of our mission statement at First Baptist Church corresponds with the work of a different ministry team in our church:

1. The **LOOKING UP** line is the guiding statement for our **Worship Team**, led by Iris Forrester.
2. The **REACHING OUT** line relates to the **Outreach Team**, led by Rev. Bruce Montgomery.
3. The **RAISING UP** line guides the **Apprenticeship Team**, led by Lisa Toupin.
4. The **LIVING AS FAMILY** line sums up the work of the **Community Team**, led by Rev. Norm Lawson.
5. The **SERVING TOGETHER** line speaks to the **Servant-Leadership Team**, led by Pat Forrester.

A New Year also presents the opportunity for a new Annual Theme at First Baptist. In 2024, our Annual Theme will simply be the third main line of Mission PDX:

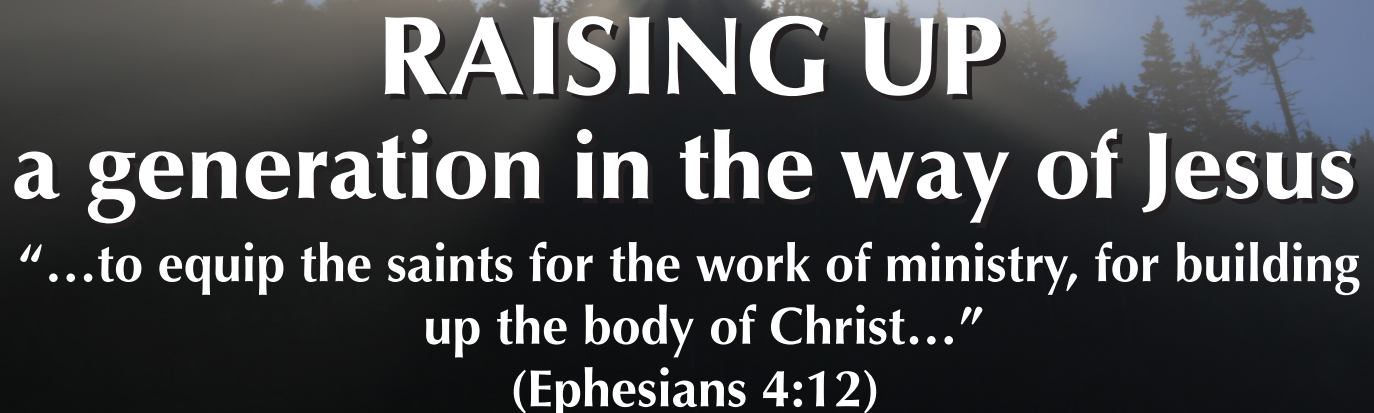
## 2024 FBC Annual Theme: "RAISING UP A GENERATION IN THE WAY OF JESUS"

This February, we will focus specifically on what it means to "raise up a generation in the way of Jesus" through our Apprenticeship Team, with a 4-part sermon series called "Apprentices of Jesus." We will look specifically at the four "**onramps**" for people to get connected to the ministry of our church and grow in their faith.

1. We grow together in **Life Groups**.
2. We gather around the table for **Monthly Fellowship Meals**.
3. We get together for **Sunday Worship Services**.
4. We serve the community together through **Drop-In** and other ministries.

We look forward to unpacking this annual theme not only in February, but over the course of the year as well, as we pray for growth in our church family.

—Pastor Matt & Pastor Anthony



**RAISING UP**  
a generation in the way of Jesus  
*"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*  
(Ephesians 4:12)

# “The Path” Readings for January, February and March (Choose 1, 2, or 4 Each Day)

1/1: 1 Ch. 29, 2 Pt. 3, Mi. 6, Ps. 107	1/22: 2 Ch. 26, Re. 13, Zc. 9, Ps. 139	2/26: Gn. 27, Mt. 26, Es. 3, Ac. 26
1/2: 2 Ch. 1, 1 Jn. 1, Mi. 7, Ps. 108, Ps. 109	1/23: 2 Ch. 27, 2 Ch. 28, Re. 14, Zc. 10, Ps. 140, Ps. 141	2/27: Gn. 28, Mt. 27, Es. 4, Ac. 27
1/3: 2 Ch. 2, 1 Jn. 2, Na. 1, Ps. 110, Ps. 111	1/24: 2 Ch. 29, Re. 15, Zc. 11, Ps. 142	2/28: Gn. 29, Mt. 28, Es. 5, Ac. 2
1/4: 2 Ch. 3, 2 Ch. 4, 1 Jn. 3, Na. 2, Ps. 112, Ps. 113	1/25: 2 Ch. 30, Re. 16, Zc. 12, Ps. 143	3/1: Gn. 30, Mk. 1, Es. 6, Ro. 1
1/5: 2 Ch. 5, 1 Jn. 4, Na. 3, Ps. 114, Ps. 115	1/26: 2 Ch. 31, Re. 17, Zc. 13, Ps. 144	3/2: Gn. 31, Mk. 2, Es. 7, Ro. 2
1/6: 2 Ch. 6, 1 Jn. 5, Ha. 1, Ps. 116	1/27: 2 Ch. 32, Re. 18, Zc. 14, Ps. 145	3/3: Gn. 32, Mk. 3, Es. 8, Ro. 3
1/7: 2 Ch. 7, 2 Jn. 1, Ha. 2, Ps. 117, Ps. 118	1/28: 2 Ch. 33, Re. 19, Ma. 1, Ps. 146, Ps. 147	3/4: Gn. 33, Mk. 4, Es. 9-10, Ro. 4
1/8: 2 Ch. 8, 3 Jn. 1, Ha. 3, Ps. 119:1-24	1/29: 2 Ch. 34, Re. 20, Ma. 2, Ps. 148	3/5: Gn. 34, Mk. 5, Jb. 1, Ro. 5
1/9: 2 Ch. 9, Jd. 1, Zp. 1, Ps. 119:25-48	1/30: 2 Ch. 35, Re. 21, Ma. 3, Ps. 149	3/6: Gn. 35-36, Mk. 6, Jb. 2, Ro. 6
1/10: 2 Ch. 10, Re. 1, Zp. 2, Ps. 119:49-72	1/31: 2 Ch. 36, Re. 22, Ma. 4, Ps. 150	3/7: Gn. 37, Mk. 7, Jb. 3, Ro. 7
1/11: 2 Ch. 11, 2 Ch. 12, Re. 2, Zp. 3, Ps. 119:73-96	2/1: Gn. 1, Mt. 1, Ez. 1, Ac. 1	3/8: Gn. 38, Mk. 8, Jb. 4, Ro. 8
1/12: 2 Ch. 13, Re. 3, Hg. 1, Ps. 119:97-120	2/2: Gn. 2, Mt. 2, Ez. 2, Ac. 2	3/9: Gn. 39, Mk. 9, Jb. 5, Ro. 9
1/13: 2 Ch. 14, 2 Ch. 15, Re. 4, Hg. 2, Ps. 119:121-144	2/3: Gn. 3, Mt. 3, Ez. 3, Ac. 3	3/10: Gn. 40, Mk. 10, Jb. 6, Ro. 10
1/14: 2 Ch. 16, Re. 5, Zc. 1, Ps. 119:145-176	2/4: Gn. 4, Mt. 4, Ez. 4, Ac. 4	3/11: Gn. 41, Mk. 11, Jb. 7, Ro. 11
1/15: 2 Ch. 17, Re. 6, Zc. 2, Ps. 120, Ps. 121, Ps. 122	2/5: Gn. 5, Mt. 5, Ez. 5, Ac. 5	3/12: Gn. 42, Mk. 12, Jb. 8, Ro. 12
1/16: 2 Ch. 18, Re. 7, Zc. 3, Ps. 123, Ps. 124, Ps. 125	2/6: Gn. 6, Mt. 6, Ez. 6, Ac. 6	3/13: Gn. 43, Mk. 13, Jb. 9, Ro. 13
1/17: 2 Ch. 19, 2 Ch. 20, Re. 8, Zc. 4, Ps. 126, Ps. 127, Ps. 128	2/7: Gn. 7, Mt. 7, Ez. 7, Ac. 7	3/14: Gn. 44, Mk. 14, Jb. 10, Ro. 14
1/18: 2 Ch. 21, Re. 9, Zc. 5, Ps. 129, Ps. 130, Ps. 131	2/8: Gn. 8, Mt. 8, Ez. 8, Ac. 8	3/15: Gn. 45, Mk. 15, Jb. 11, Ro. 15
1/19: 2 Ch. 22, 2 Ch. 23, Re. 10, Zc. 6, Ps. 132, Ps. 133, Ps. 134	2/9: Gn. 9, Gn. 10, Mt. 9, Ez. 9, Ac. 9	3/16: Gn. 46, Mk. 16, Jb. 12, Ro. 16
1/20: 2 Ch. 24, Re. 11, Zc. 7, Ps. 135, Ps. 136	2/10: Gn. 11, Mt. 10, Ez. 10, Ac. 10	3/17: Gn. 47, Lk. 1:1-38, Jb. 13, 1 Co. 1
1/21: 2 Ch. 25, Re. 12, Zc. 8, Ps. 137, Ps. 138	2/11: Gn. 12, Mt. 11, Ne. 1, Ac. 11	3/18: Gn. 48, Lk. 1:39-80, Jb. 14, 1 Co. 2
	2/12: Gn. 13, Mt. 12, Ne. 2, Ac. 12	3/19: Gn. 49, Lk. 2, Jb. 15, 1 Co. 3
	2/13: Gn. 14, Mt. 13, Ne. 3, Ac. 13	3/20: Gn. 50, Lk. 3, Jb. 16-17, 1 Co. 4
	2/14: Gn. 15, Mt. 14, Ne. 4, Ac. 14	3/21: Ex. 1, Lk. 4, Jb. 18, 1 Co. 5
	2/15: Gn. 16, Mt. 15, Ne. 5, Ac. 15	3/22: Ex. 2, Lk. 5, Jb. 19, 1 Co. 6
	2/16: Gn. 17, Mt. 16, Ne. 6, Ac. 16	3/23: Ex. 3, Lk. 6, Jb. 20, 1 Co. 7
	2/17: Gn. 18, Mt. 17, Ne. 7, Ac. 17	3/24: Ex. 4, Lk. 7, Jb. 21, 1 Co. 8
	2/18: Gn. 19, Mt. 18, Ne. 8, Ac. 18	3/25: Ex. 5, Lk. 8, Jb. 22, 1 Co. 9
	2/19: Gn. 20, Mt. 19, Ne. 9, Ac. 19	3/26: Ex. 6, Lk. 9, Jb. 23, 1 Co. 10
	2/20: Gn. 21, Mt. 20, Ne. 10, Ac. 20	3/27: Ex. 7, Lk. 10, Jb. 24, 1 Co. 11
	2/21: Gn. 22, Mt. 21, Ne. 11, Ac. 21	3/28: Ex. 8, Lk. 11, Jb. 25-26, 1 Co. 12
	2/22: Gn. 23, Mt. 22, Ne. 12, Ac. 22	3/29: Ex. 9, Lk. 12, Jb. 27, 1 Co. 13
	2/23: Gn. 24, Mt. 23, Ne. 13, Ac. 23	3/30: Ex. 10, Lk. 13, Jb. 28, 1 Co. 14
	2/24: Gn. 25, Mt. 24, Es. 1, Ac. 24	3/31: Ex. 11, Lk. 14, Jb. 29, 1 Co. 15
	2/25: Gn. 26, Mt. 25, Es. 2, Ac. 25	



# Giving Thanks in all Circumstance

## Philippians 1 19-30 ESV

**“Yes, I will rejoice, for I know through your prayers and the help of The Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.”** (*Philippians 1:19*)

Thank you, God, for the courage you taught me through cancer! My relationship with Jesus Christ was made complete through my suffering of cancer. How can humanity give you thanks for the cross unless we suffer ourselves? Thank you for allowing me the honor of sharing your pain.

Through suffering, it is my expectation and hope that my faith will be made strong and complete in Jesus Christ. Thank you for giving me the courage and faith to face cancer on my knees. Thank you for letting me honor you with my body, whether my life or death. **“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”** (*Philippians 1:21*). Thank you, Lord, regardless of what happens to my body I can win this battle with cancer, whether I live or die. I am willing to pay the ultimate price. I give you my life, Lord.

Furthermore, I have been granted the privilege of suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ. I should be willing to suffer for his sake. I give God, the Father, thanks for allowing me the privilege of learning what suffering truly is. If I can learn to wait and trust God, there will be some miraculous things to give him, such as: Thanksgiving, a complete relationship with God, and intimacy with God during times of trial.

Another thing to be thankful for during suffering is hope. My hope comes from this scripture. **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?”** (*Psalms 22:1*). We see Jesus on the cross asking the same question in Matthew 27: 46. **“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** I have never really understood that question until I dealt with cancer. Thank you, God, for a deep meaning of those words. Why have you forsaken me? The answer to that question is that you have been with me all along. That is all I asked when I was diagnosed with cancer for a second time. I wanted Father God to walk with me. I could die of cancer and still win the battle. If my faith is strong, I must have an impact in the community on my knees before God to beat cancer.

Finally, my desire is to please God in my suffering from cancer. I hope I showed my faith, hope, thanksgiving, and love. Thank you, Church, during my suffering. My community took my battle for me. I am indebted to you forever. I am thankful for First Baptist Church of Portland, and I love the body of First Baptist Church of Portland.

— *Richard McGuirk*



**Do you have a prayer request that you would like shared with our email prayer chain? If so, just contact the Church Office at 503-228-7465 or [office@fbc-portland.org](mailto:office@fbc-portland.org), Monday–Thursday, or Darcia Hing ([darciahing@comcast.net](mailto:darciahing@comcast.net)) Friday–Sunday, so that we can pray for you!**

## Service CD's are available



CDs are available of FBC church services in the FBC library to check-out!

If you would like a copy sent to your home, please contact Jason Chastain at

[jchastain@fbc-portland.org](mailto:jchastain@fbc-portland.org) or 503-228-7465 to request a copy! We have CD players available, too. If you need delivery to your home, please let us know.

# Join a conversation...

Join a group conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith together.



## Coming this February... Alpha: A Conversation About Faith

### What is Alpha?

Alpha is an open and informal conversation about life, spirituality, and the person of Jesus without judgement or pressure. We want to hear your thoughts and questions as we explore these themes together without the pressured atmosphere that usually comes with these conversations. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring faith, typically run over nine weeks. Each talk looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Join us at Drop-In for a hot meal at 2:00 pm and then head up to the Social Room (across from the Resource Center) for the Alpha course at 3:00 pm.

**Where:** First Baptist Church of Portland, Social Room (enter 11th Ave. side of building)

**When:** An 11-week course, offered from 3:00 – 4:00 pm every Thursday, February 1 – April 18, 2024, after the Drop-In meal.

## Join a Life Group Today!

There are so many ways to get connected with a smaller community within First Baptist Church. Our Life Groups are always open to new people. So, check out the options below and get involved today! Contact the church office ([office@fbc-portland.org](mailto:office@fbc-portland.org)) to learn more about a group you are interested in.

**Sundays: Cambodian Sunday School Life Group**  
at FBC Cambodian Sunday School Room with Pastor Peter, at 10:00 am.

**Tuesdays: Prayer Life Group**  
Prayer Room, with Pastor Anthony, at TBA

**Wednesdays: "Life Group East"**  
Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, we will offer a Sermon-Based Life Group at Grace Baptist Church, focusing on folks from FBC who live on the East Side, and inviting our friends at the Grace church to join us as well. (200 SE 76th Ave. Portland, OR 97215), at 7:00 pm.

### Wednesdays: "Life Group West"

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, we will offer the Sermon-Based Life Group at Cedar Hills Baptist Church, focusing on folks from FBC who live on the West Side, and inviting our friends at the Cedar Hills church to join us as well. (2470 SW Roxbury Ave. Portland, OR 97225), at 7:00 pm.

**Wednesdays: Cambodian Bible Study Life Group**  
on Zoom with Pastor Peter, at 7:00 pm.

**Wednesdays: Men's Lunch Life Group**  
at Dining Hall, with Pat Forrester, at 12:00 pm. Third Wednesdays only.

**Thursdays: DI Volunteer Sermon-Based Life Group**  
at FBC Dining Room, with Pastor Matt, at 12:00 pm.

**Thursdays: Downtown Community Life Group**  
at FBC Social Room with Pastor Anthony and Pastor Matt, at 3:00 pm.





# Cambodian Ministry News

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)*

Our Cambodian ministry resumed the Zoom Bible study right after Labor Day and ended in October before the holiday season and the Cambodian mission trip. I want to thank Rev. Felicia Keo and Mrs. Elizabeth Khem for their help in conducting these Bible studies. We again resume in 2024, right after the New Year's Day.

Our mission trip team missed the Thanksgiving celebration, but our Cambodian ministry was joyfully involved with the worship service and the excellent meal for Thanksgiving. I am grateful to the Lord that Rev. Felicia Keo gave the sermons during my absence from the mission trip. I also want to thank God for Cambodian leaders who faithfully engaged in the ministry to ensure that nothing came short of meeting the needs of the ministry while we went on the mission trip. God is working miraculously in our church, and the Cambodian Children Ministry has become a part of our mission. You have been praying and supporting this ministry as it grows and bears fruits for His kingdom.

There were 22 members of our Cambodian ministry who joined the Khmer Christian Pacific of the Northwest. On December 17, our church family came to celebrate Cambodian Christmas with your joyful hearts to hear the mission trip report and the testimonials from the team members as well. I hope you enjoyed a gift from the Children's Center as a token of their thanks for your prayers and support. I also hope you delight in the Christmas

fellowship and the Cambodian foods prepared by our best cooks, who always enjoy serving our God when given the opportunity. Special thanks to the kitchen team! And we thank you for the Christmas love gift toward the ministry's 2024 budget.

Here are the highlights of the mission trip.

As you know, five of us in the mission team packed up a lot of ministry supplies for the Children's Center, including clothes for children, laptops for pastors and computer class, flashlights, over-the-counter medications, power tools to fix buildings, etc. We executed the plans for the trip based on our precise itinerary, which was slightly different from the previous trip, and it was an inspired and exciting trip with life-changing elements even though it faced health challenges.

For the first part, we went to Siem Reap Province for an Angkor Wat tour, floating villages, a night market, and



**To learn more about Cambodian Children's Ministry, go to [ccmnews.org](http://ccmnews.org)**





a special dinner with Khmer traditional dance performances. As you may know, Angkor Wat is one of the world's ten wonders. We always need more sightseeing each time we visit that amazing, ancient architecture. I learn something new each time I lead the team members through. After

we gained energy from the long flight and stayed at the Smiling Hotel in Siem Reap Province, we continued to the Children's Center, which was our primary purpose.

The second part of the trip was to work at the Children's Center. We took in the fresh countryside air of Kampong Chhnang Province and received a warm welcome from the people in the Center. We stayed at the Sovann Phum Hotel in the main Province and came to work at the Center during the daytime. There was a different working schedule each day. For the early part of the day, we went grocery shopping with the chef to feed the children and congregation. About 250 people joined our Thanksgiving dinner, and a gift was given to each person. Then, we visited the poor families to determine how we would help their families, such as with medical or clothing needs, or even rebuild their homes and a well for the welfare of their health.

*Continued on page 12*

ព្រះបន្ទូលប្រចាំត្រីមាសនេះគឺ ទំនុកជំរកឹង ១២១:៨  
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 ទៅទស្សនាអង្គវត្ត ទៅផ្សារត្រី និងជិះទូកក្នុងបឹងទន្លេសាប ។  
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 ជាមួយគ្នាទីនោះយើងជិះឡានអាកាស រំលងពីភ្នំមួយទៅភ្នំមួយ  
 ព្រមទាំងជិះទូកកញ្ជើលេងកំសាន្តផងដែរ ។ **ផ្នែកទី៤** យើងបាន  
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 ស្វែង និងមន្ទីរពិយាតជើងឯក បន្ទាប់មកយើងនាំគ្នា ទៅផ្សារពេល  
 ថ្ងៃ ហើយទៅជិះទូកនៅមាត់ទន្លេមុខរាំង នោះគឺជាការបញ្ចប់  
 ដំណើរពេលវេលារបស់គេ ហើយពួកគេមកសហរដ្ឋវិញ ។  
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 គ្រួសារពួកជំនុំមួយ ទៅទិញដំណាំនៅក្រុងប៉ោយប៉ែតសំរាប់  
 មណ្ឌល រៀបចំជួសជុលអាគារ រៀបចំអ្នកដឹកនាំនៅមណ្ឌល យើង  
 មានបុគ្គលិក៨នាក់ធ្វើការនៅទីនោះ ហើយយើងរៀបចំរចនា  
 សម្ព័ន្ធការងារសំរាប់បុគ្គលិកនីមួយៗ និងការប្រជុំប្រព័ន្ធ Zoom ។  
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 នោះយើងរៀបចំបុណ្យត្រីស្នូម៉ាសនៅព្រះវិហារធំនៅថ្ងៃទី១៧  
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 ពួកជំនុំដែលបានគាំទ្រការងាររបស់ព្រះ !







After the visits, we started to rebuild their homes according to our evaluation. We continued to build our relationship with children and help them to share the gospel. We also helped clean up the Center with the children. We wanted the children to know that we were there because of the love of Jesus and that we were all God's children. We encouraged them to live and serve our God and prayed with them and their leaders. We thank our team members for being patient with Shirley and me while interviewing and meeting with newly hired staff to work in the Center and meeting with other potential church leaders as well. There were ten people who committed their lives to Christ and were baptized!

For the third part of the trip, we went to Phnom Penh and stayed there for the first night, and the following day, we took off on a tour trip to Da Nang in Vietnam for four days and three nights through the buses and flights from Ho Chiming to Da Nang Province. It was the first time for the Cambodian pastor and the rest of our team members. Shirley and I have been to Vietnam several times. Most of our team members got used to the Cambodian culture and foods but not to the Vietnamese. It was a humble experience to learn about their lifestyle in the city and the countryside, especially in their tour sites. We met people from different religions worldwide and visited Da Nang's tour sites. Riding cable cars back and forth from one mountain to another and riding a three-boat at the Hoi An ancient city were exciting experiences for us all.

Riding in the buses was another development of patience with our team members when they didn't understand the languages. We headed back to Phnom Penh safely and joyfully with a little bit less of energy.

For the fourth part of the trip, our team needed to stay at Angkor International Hotel in Phnom Penh until they left home. For the rest of our time there, we spent one day at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, S-21, where our team members requested to visit and learn how Cambodia went through the Killing Fields. It was not an exciting place to



be, but it was a must-be place for us all to experience what Cambodians went through. We also spent another day on a trip to Choeung Ek, the site of a former orchard and mass

*Continued on page 13*





graves of victims of the Khmer Rouge during the Killing Fields. I know that most people, including myself, left those sites with sadness in our faces. The rest of the trip, before our team members returned home, we had a Royal boat tour trip in the evening to go through the River Front at the Royal Palace and shop for souvenirs. We had enough to rest before taking another long flight back home. This kind of trip is to engage and help Cambodian children and help the team members live a life worthy of His calling. There are more pictures from this mission trip online at [ccmnews.org](http://ccmnews.org).

The fifth part was after the team members left the airport, Shirley and I went directly to the children's Center to do more ministry until the last two days before returning home. We stayed at the Center, working with our CCM staff and children. We visited more families involved in the Center and finished the house project. With CCM's staff, we prayed with a family who needed the power of our living God to remove all of the idol statues and items from his body, vehicle, house, and property. He burned all of those items. His family is now living free from the power of Satan. We cleared some trees and bushes on our property with tractor services to prepare for other projects, such as fruit trees, gardens, fish ponds, and sports areas for children and youth. We are also working on building repairs that must be fixed before another monsoon season and the next mission trip. We managed staff relationships in the Center to ensure each member knew their responsibilities and worked in unity.

There are six staff working in the Center now. We will resume classes in January after the holiday season, and the building has been fixed as needed. We set a regular Zoom meeting with CCM staff in Cambodia. Due to

their working schedule and smart devices, we still needed help with a few staff to join Zoom meetings. CCM's staff, Shirley, and I, also went to Poitpet City in Banteay Meanchey on the border of Thailand to get some good fruit trees for the Center. We checked out the source of how to get good bottled water and also visited the tour site in Veal Veng Pursath Mountains for our future mission trips. We are grateful to the Lord, who blessed our team members with good health during the trip.

For the last three days of the trip, we got back to Phnom Peng and got ready to return home. We are so glad we got home safely with many blessings from this mission trip. Thank you all for your prayers and financial support! We continue to trust God as he bestowed upon us this children's ministry with eight staff, classes during weekdays, worship services, a nutritional program, a poor family project, and maintaining property and buildings. I want to thank our church, ministry partners, and individuals who faithfully and constantly supported this ministry and enabled me to do the work of the ministry days and nights. Also, I want to thank our CCM board members,

*Continued on page 14*





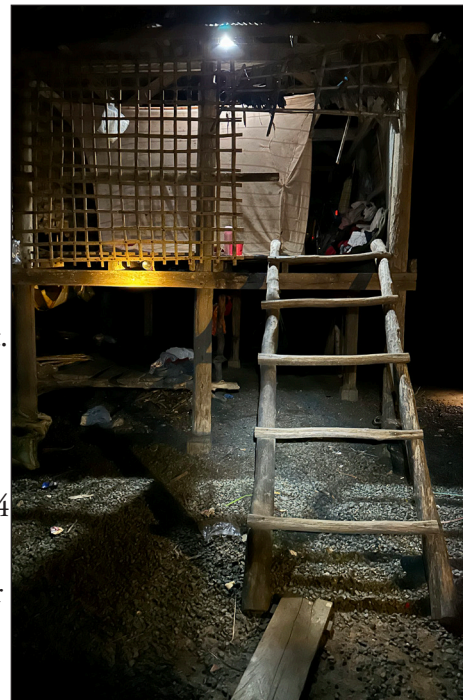


FBC staff, and pastoral staff, who always assisted me in any needed areas of the ministry. This great commission belongs to the faithful servants of the Lord, like you and me, to collaborate with our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. If the Lord is willing, please join our next mission trip. Please visit our website for a registration form for this upcoming mission trip and the contributions to sustain this ministry. May our God bless you and the family this New Year for his glory! There are eight staff working in the Center now. We will resume classes in January after the holiday season, and the building has been fixed as needed. We set a regular Zoom meeting with CCM staff in Cambodia. Due to their working schedule and smart devices, we still needed help with a few staff to join Zoom meetings. CCM's staff, Shirley, and I also went to Poit Pet City in Banteay

Meanchey on the border of Thailand to get some good fruit trees for the Center. We checked out the source of how to get good bottled water and also visited the tour site in Veal Veng Pursath Mountains for our future mission trips. We are grateful to the Lord, who blessed our team members with good health during the trip.

This Great Commission belongs to the faithful servants of the Lord, like you and me, to collaborate with our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. If the Lord is willing, please join our next mission trip on November 4 – 23, 2024. Please visit our website for a registration form for this upcoming mission trip and the contributions to sustain this ministry. May our God bless you and the family this New Year for his glory!

— *Pastor Peter Im*



## February is Assistance Ministry Month

Everyone needs a helping hand at some point in their life. Through our FBC Assistance Ministry, we are able to help members of our church and folks in the community who are going through difficult times financially in a dignified and confidential way. Right now, however, we are in particular need for donations to this fund, in order to make sure we are able to help folks who come to



us with particular needs. Please consider how you might be of help by making a donation, whether small or large, to the Assistance Ministry this February. You can donate to this fund at any time of the year by marking your donation "Assistance Ministry." Thank you for your generosity to help our community!

— *FBC Missions Team*



# Join us for our Friends & Family Celebration!

*Sunday, February 11, 2024,  
at First Baptist Church of Portland  
at 10:30 am*

*This is NOT a Valentine's event! Instead, it will be a time to celebrate the incredible "agape" love of God for our world. Invite a friend, a family member, or simply come as you are. Everyone will have opportunities to express commitments to make a positive difference in the lives of friends, family members, and the community. Stick around after the celebration for live music, a delicious FREE lunch, and lots of fun door prizes!*

*Fellowship! ♥ Fun! ♥ Food!*

*To learn more, email [office@fbc-portland.org](mailto:office@fbc-portland.org) or follow us on Facebook*

# Teaching Series for January–March, 2024

- January 7: “**Praying**” (*Jn. 14:13–14, 15:7, 16:23*)
- January 14: Ambassadors of Christ: Part 1 – “**The Reconciliation**” (*2 Co. 5:11–19*)
- January 21: Ambassadors of Christ: Part 2 – “**The Appeal**” (*2 Co. 5:20–21*)
- January 28: “Make It Clear” Sunday – Ambassadors of Christ: Part 3 – “**Make It Clear**”
- February 4: Apprentices of Christ: Part 1 – “**Committed To Growth**” (*Lk. 10:38–42*)
- February 11: Friends and Family Sunday – Apprentices of Christ: Part 2 – “**Committed To One Another**” (*1 Co. 11:17–34*)
- February 18: Apprentices of Christ: Part 3 – “**Committed To God**” (*He. 10:19–25*)
- February 25: Apprentices of Christ: Part 4 – “**Committed to the Community**” (*Mt. 6:1–4*)
- March 3: Servants of Christ: Part 1 – “**A Rewarding Life**” (*Mt. 25:14–30*)
- March 10: Servants of Christ: Part 2 – “**A Treasured Life**” (*Mt. 6:19–24*)
- March 17: Servants of Christ: Part 3 – “**A Humble Life**” (*Lk. 17:7–10*)
- March 24: Palm Sunday: Guest Speaker
- March 28: Maundy Thursday Service: “**A Death Foretold**” (*1 Co. 15:1–3*)
- March 31: Easter Sunday Service: “**A Return Foretold**” (*1 Co. 15:1–11*)

## Thank You for Your Generosity!

We are so grateful to our church family for your marked generosity in giving to missions this past year! As you know, there were several special fundraising drives for various purposes. With your help, we raised the following:

One Great Hour of Sharing:	\$2,380
World Mission Offering:	\$1,990
America for Christ:	\$3,620
RMMO:	\$946
Christmas Offering:	\$1,760*
* split 50/50 between CCM & Mission J.13	
Cambodian Children’s Ministry:	\$6,652

We are also grateful to all who gave generously to the “Angel Tree” toy drive for children, along with those who turned in pledge cards for tithing commitments in 2024. We are also grateful to all who gave generously through tithes, offerings, and special donations in 2023.

By God’s grace and with your help, FBC will continue to make a huge impact for the Kingdom of God in Downtown Portland and beyond!

—*FBC Diaconate Board & Missions Team*

## Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Trailblazer—American Baptist Pastor

Join us for a special time of prayer and remembrance, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the English worship service on January 14, 2023.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the

Church Office will be closed to the public on Monday, January 15, 2024. Church members, friends, and staff are encouraged to get involved in community service on that day, in the spirit of Dr. King.



# 2024 Calendar

*Opportunities for Youth & Young Adults from across the region!*

## WINTER CAMP @ Camp Arrah Wanna

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Visit [www.camparrahwanna.org](http://www.camparrahwanna.org) for details and to register!

**FEB**  
**16-19**

**MARCH**  
**24-28**

## J.13 Regional Mission Trip

@ Camp Arrah Wanna

Get your application in RIGHT AWAY to secure a spot on this great service opportunity! Deadline for applications is March 4!

## Southern Oregon Rafting Trip

Join us for a wild day of rafting and adventure down the Rogue River in Southern Oregon. Cost is \$50 and feel free to invite friends!

**JUNE**  
**20-22**

**JULY**  
**15-19**

## SUMMER CAMP @ Camp Arrah Wanna

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Visit [www.camparrahwanna.org](http://www.camparrahwanna.org) for details and to register!

## Beach Trip

We're headed to the coast for a day away from the city to run around on the beach. Bring a towel and a change of clothes and join the fun.

**AUG**  
**9**

**OCT**  
**11-13**

## Fall Retreat

Every Year J.13 takes a trip to our favorite mountain camp, Camp Arrah Wanna. Carve pumpkins, play games, and bonfire as we ring in Fall.

*J.13 exists to provide Youth & Young Adults programing for students in our ABC-CPC region. Anyone can plug in! We also want to support the amazing programs offered by our churches and will promote them to the students, churches and families in our network! Let us know what we can include in the calendar. We share the same goals, let's share resources as well!*

*For More Information:*

*Anthony Young: [anthony@fbc-portland.org](mailto:anthony@fbc-portland.org) or Corey Hughes: [program@camparrahwanna.org](mailto:program@camparrahwanna.org)  
We will either have answers, or direct you to someone who does!*

# Join us for our annual



# Youth Fundraiser

## March 10, at First Baptist Church of Portland from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

There will be delicious meal & dessert provided by and served by members of our J.13 Youth Group, featuring a special time of prayer for our local and region-wide youth ministry, and an opportunity to learn about our 4-year plan for mission trips and youth discipleship.

The meal is free but donations of any amount will go directly to the Youth Fund to help cover the costs of youth events, and to send students of all ages to Summer Camp at Arrah Wanna in 2024. Our fundraising goal for the Youth Fund this year is \$3,000, which will help us to ensure FBC does our part to fund local and region-wide J.13 youth ministry in 2024.

We don't want any student miss out on these awesome opportunities because they can't afford it, which is why First Baptist Church is continuing in 2024 to take a step of faith in offering 100%

scholarships to any of our students who want to in camps at Arrah Wanna (families are invited to contribute as much as they can toward the cost of their students, up to 50% of the cost). We are able to do this due to the generous support of our Youth Fund and the Brophy Camp Scholarship Fund in the past.

However, to help us both this year and in the future, we are inviting any and all who are able to do so, to consider making a special donation to the Youth Fund at this event. Are you able to sponsor a student? The cost for attending Winter Camp is just under \$200, Summer Camp is \$300 and the cost per mission trip participant is \$400, but donations of ANY amount will be greatly appreciated!

For more information, see Pastor Anthony.

(To learn more, email [anthony@fbc-portland.org](mailto:anthony@fbc-portland.org).)

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## Mission J.13 State-Wide Youth Mission Trip!

Attention all high school students: Join us this March as we embark on a mission trip to our own "Camp Arrah Wanna" an American Baptist Youth Camp in Welches, OR. This trip will offer life-changing opportunities to help you grow in your faith, get involved in urban missions, and roll up your sleeves to improve the Camp Arrah Wanna campus, all in the spectacular setting of the Pacific Northwest! There will also be awesome opportunities to make and build friendships to last a lifetime. (Space is limited, so apply today!)

Page 18

**Who:** All students in 8th-12th grade (young adults also invited to participate as peer-counselors)

**What:** A mission trip to make a positive impact for kids, youth, and young adults

**Where:** "Camp Arrah Wanna" in Welches, OR ([camparrahwanna.org](http://camparrahwanna.org))

**When:** March 24–28, 2024

**Cost:** \$400 (scholarships & fundraising help available—see Pastor Anthony)



Join us for  
**MAKE IT CLEAR**

**Outreach Training Event**

**Saturday, January 27, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**at First Baptist Church of Portland, 909 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97205**

*Have you ever struggled with how best to share your faith with other people?  
Where do you even start?*

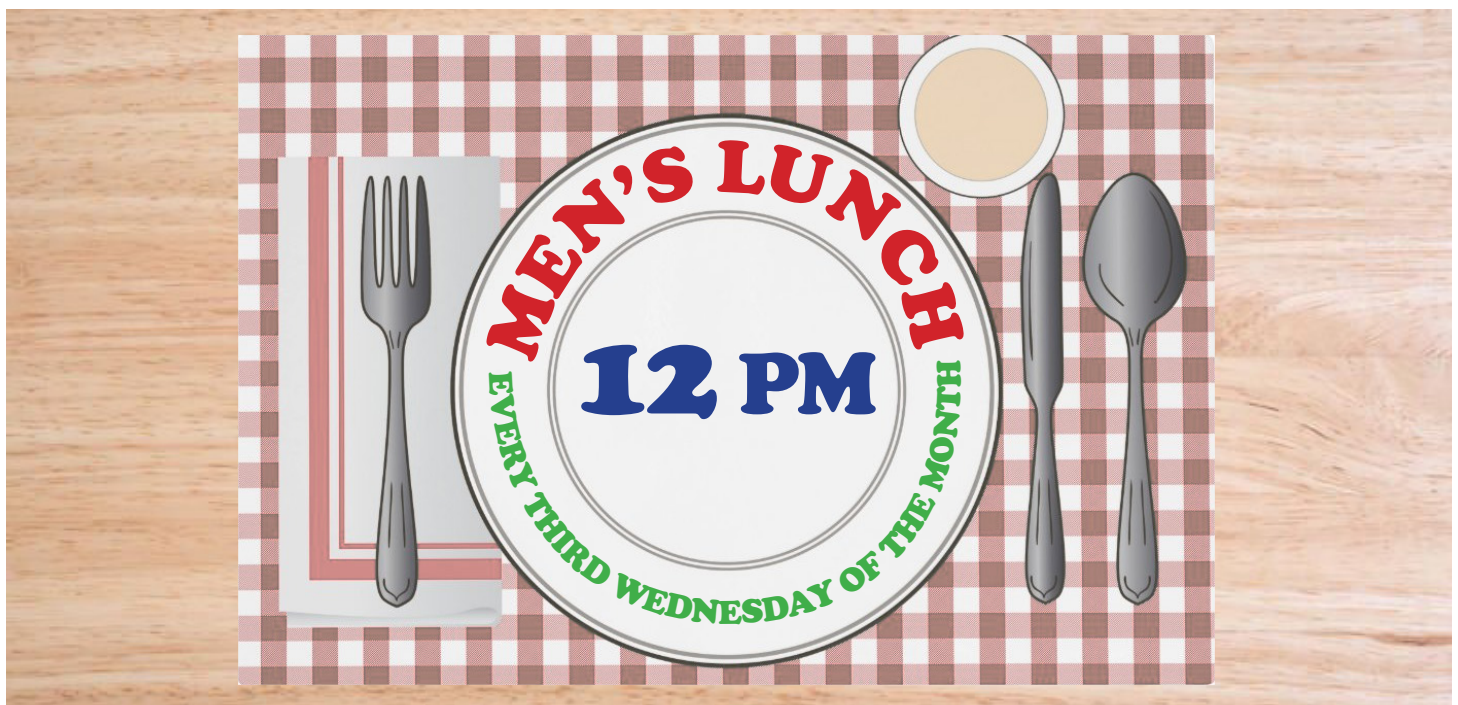
Come join us for this great opportunity designed to prepare Christians to communicate the message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone in the context of everyday life.

To register, email [office@fbc-portland.org](mailto:office@fbc-portland.org), call 503-228-7465, or follow us on Facebook!



**Wanted: Easter Outreach Donations!**

As we look forward to Easter outreach to kids and families, we need your help! The Apprenticeship Team needs folks to provide donations of plastic easter eggs and store-bought candy. Want to help out? Just bring your donations to the “Welcome Center” or Church Office Through Thursday, March 21st, at noon. Questions? Contact Pastor Anthony via email ([anthony@fbc-portland.org](mailto:anthony@fbc-portland.org)). Thank you for your support!







**EASTER BRUNCH  
EGG HUNT  
FOR CHILDREN  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

**SW 12<sup>TH</sup> & TAYLOR, PORTLAND, OR  
503-228-7465 FBC-PORTLAND.ORG**