

FBC NEWSLETTER

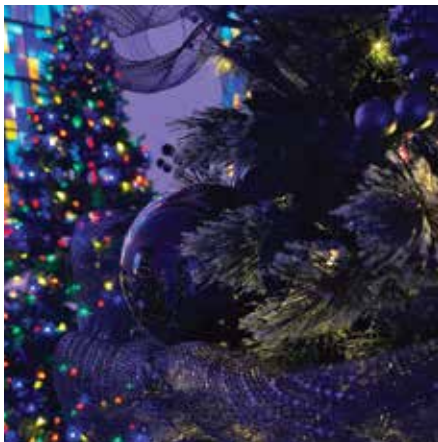
Embracing Our History | Engaging Our Future | Inspiring Worship

Focus On: Response to Experience Christmas

First Baptist is an amazing church family and Experience Christmas serves as one very visible proof of that! The way everyone has come together to reach out to our community through EC has been beautiful!

Here are some of the responses we received from our community this year:

“What an amazing event! The combination of Christmas displays, handbell music and singing made for a truly unfor-



gettable experience. Thank you for sharing it with us.”

“I hope you have a video of this walkthrough - it was so beautiful! Thank you again for sharing it with us.”



A Word from Our Pastor

It is hard to believe that we have done six years of Experience Christmas. This year was awesome and our church family worked so hard to make the mission outreach the best yet. Despite the rain, we had many people come through and everywhere they looked they saw the Gospel on display. Yes, they saw the Gospel in the Christmas trees and in the placards with the Scripture pointing unto our Savior, but they saw the Gospel in the hospitality and attitude of our Christian family. Thank you so much for begin a mission-minded church that preaches the Good News of Jesus.

As we turn our focus to a new year, there is so much work to do. Be praying about how the Lord is going to use our church to accomplish the task the Lord has assigned us to reach Crestview and the world for Jesus. As with every year, in 2026, there will be opportunities, miracles, challenges, rejoicing, and heartbreak. In the good and the bad, we will meet each thing that comes our way in the Love of the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace, Peace, and Merry Christmas to you all.

Stan Lewis

“It was beautiful! Thank you!”

“Went to Experience Christmas in Crestview, FL. What a BEAUTIFUL and calm feeling this experience curated for my little family. It was a one night only event. So if you missed it, I’m sorry!”

“What an absolutely beautiful experience. It was the perfect way to begin celebrating our



Savior, the Light of the World - Jesus Christ.”

“The thoughtful symbolism in each tree color and tree was truly heartwarming. Every detail told a story, and it was clear how much love, prayer, and creativity went into bringing this display to life.

Thank you to everyone who dedicated their time and talent to share this gift with our community. Thank you for opening your heart and welcoming all to enjoy such a meaningful work of art.”

Laura Kitchen

Thoughts from Pastor Andrew

What an amazing night we had last Saturday at Experience Christmas 2025!

Seeing our church come together to prepare and offer this gift to the community was such an encouragement.

Each church member had their important role, and without them it wouldn’t have been the same. Thank you to all who were a part of it!



During the children’s drama in the Worship Center, one of our plastic shepherd’s staff props was reluctantly handed back in by a little guy who had enjoyed chewing on it throughout the program. The toothmarks and slobber that remained are precious reminders of a child who experienced the Christmas story and the Gospel of Christ!

Let’s continue to pray for those who came through - especially those who aren’t walking with the Lord. May the seeds planted through Experience Christmas 2025 bear fruit in God’s time.



Pastor Andrew

Family Focus: Lego Contest

What a wonderful weekend we had last weekend as we opened up our church to our community for Experience Christmas. My favorite part of Experience Christmas is how our entire church family comes together to accomplish this amazing event. We even try to get our kids involved by having them compete in a Christmas Lego Creation Contest. They spend the month prior to Experience Christmas



working on making a Christmas scene with legos during game time in Awana. Then, we display them in the lobby during Experience Christmas. We have two different age groups that compete. Our Kindergarten through Second Graders, and our Third

Continued in next column

Missions & Media

Thanksgiving. Christmas.
2026. Repeat...

Experience Christmas 2025 (#6) is in the history book! We planned for months. We prepared for months. We 'pulled the trigger' and welcomed our community to Experience Christmas 2025!



Experience Christmas is our annual gift to our community; showing who we are, Who's we are, and why we are a church fellowship.

We are a family of believers who share a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Koinonia (Gr. = to have in common, fellowship).

We are followers of Jesus Christ, God's only Son who paid the ultimate price (death on a cross) for our sin debt, who God rose from the dead to rule and rein.

We serve Him and seek to fulfill His will (desire & direction) for our lives in glorifying Him and pointing others to His Grace, Salvation through Faith.

Looking toward 2026, we will apply 'lessons learned' from EC25 and will again greet our guests, ensure they see Him in us and not hesitate to share with our guests 'who' we are, 'Whose' we are and 'why' we are First Baptist.

Pastor Chuck

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through Sixth Graders.

The winners of the Kindergarten through Second Graders are Braden Anderson in first place, AJ Dvorak in second place, and Favour Johnson in third place. The winners of the Third through Sixth Graders are Kaid Jenkins and Shaelynn Heathershaw in first place, Gwendalyn Anderson and Gracie Hendricks in second place, and Ariel Russo and Isla Bielenin in third place. All of the kids did a wonderful job on their creations!

Beth Hendricks

Staff



Dr. Stan Lewis
Lead Pastor



Andrew Heathershaw
Worship Pastor



Chuck Walthall
Missions & Media Pastor



Beth Hendricks
Children's Ministries Director

Our Service Times

-Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
-Live Online @ fbcew.org
-Sunday School 9:00am
-Wednesday Scripture Studies 6:00pm
-Plus Worship Choir, Student & Children's Ministries and more!

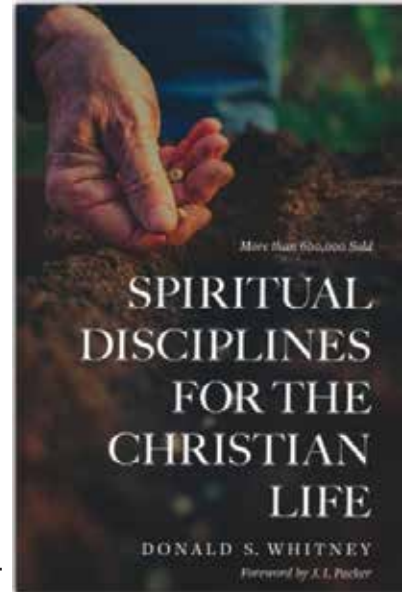
171 Hickory Ave | Crestview, FL 32536
(850) 682-2544 | staff@fbcew.org
Office Hours: M-F 8-5 | Closed 12-1

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Student Ministry Updates

Starting in December the Student Sunday School class will begin a study on "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" by Donald S. Whitney. This study was used by the Ladies Evening Bible Study group and has been referred to and recommended by Pastor Stan multiple times over the last few months.



"Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" is a classic, bestselling book that helps you move personally and intentionally toward a life of spiritual discipline. The book explains that, "as you grow deeper in godliness through thoughtful engagement with the disciplines, you will enjoy unparalleled freedom in Christ. Spiritual discipline sounds great in theory, but putting it into practice takes time and determination! This book offers practical suggestions for cultivating these disciplines into your daily life."

Disciplines that are explored include: prayer, worship, Scripture meditation, evangelism, serving, stewardship of time and money, Scripture application, fasting, silence and solitude, and journaling and learning.

If you are interested in this book for your own personal study, please reach out to the church office for a copy. And be in prayer for our students and their teachers as we go through a study of this book over the next few months.



Pastor Search Committee as they continue the search for a new Student Pastor.

Laura Kitchen