

## FBC pursuing Intentional Interim Model for transition

From the FBC Board of Deacons:

The Deacon Board of First Baptist Church has voted unanimously to use the Intentional Interim Ministry model to guide the church through its transition period.

In November, the congregation charged the Deacon Board with the task of finding an interim pastor as we seek the man God has called to lead First Baptist Church permanently. On March 9-10, Dr. William Tatum will visit FBC. Following the March 10 Sunday morning service the congregation will vote on calling him as our Intentional Interim minister.

The term "Intentional Interim" is unfamiliar to some people. An Intentional Interim minister differs from a traditional interim minister in that he serves both as pastor to the people and as a "coach," assisting a church that is transitioning through a difficult period, such as a church schism. It has been used by churches in a variety of denominations (including those in the American Baptist Churches-USA). An IIM pastor comes to a church that may be suffering from loss or internal conflict. "[He] has been specifically called and trained to help churches through this chapter in their life" (ABC-USA.org).

Dr. Tatum has served as an intentional interim pastor to eleven congregations since 2006.

The Intentional Interim process relies heavily on the congregation and usually takes from twelve to eighteen months. During that time, the church members will select a transition team that will work closely with the interim pastor, who will assist the team in determining the identity and direction God has for the church. The Transition Team "is made up of trusted, spiritual, and wise leaders from the congregation," according to an IIM document. "The Transition Team looks like a microcosm of the church" ("Intentional Interim Ministry Process").

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### Meet Dr. William Tatum

**6 p.m. March 9**

Carry-in Dinner at FBC

Please RSVP on connect cards in the sanctuary or call the office.

**Sunday, March 10**

Dr. Tatum will present the Sunday message. There will be a congregational meeting immediately following the service.



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"I have witnessed the Intentional Interim Process in several churches who needed to recover from difficult circumstances and get their footing before moving forward with a new pastor and vision. The key word is intentional. Intentional means to be deliberate, purposeful, or thoughtful. The intentional Interim is skilled at working with a congregation as they discover who they are now and find confidence to move forward into new ministry. I think this approach is exactly what FBC Hamilton needs," said retired FBC senior minister Dan Clemens.

Together, the Intentional Interim pastor and the transition team will develop processes to identify the needs of the church and the direction it should go following a difficult period. It is critical that the congregation have ownership of the process throughout the transition ("Intentional Interim Ministry Process").



Importantly, the Intentional Interim minister is not to be considered as a candidate for the pulpit on a permanent basis, but only as an experienced and carefully trained guard to finding the man God has called at a particular time for the particular task of healing.

For more information about the Intentional Interim Ministry Process, go to "Intentional Interim Ministry Process" (intentional-interim-ministry). To view a video describing the process, go to <https://youtu.be/OSdpUVVinvg>.

## Pulpit schedule

As First Baptist is in the process of seeking a new senior minister, others are filling in on Sunday mornings. The list to the right is the current list of who will be giving the message.



- March 3: Dr. Rev. Kevin Hairston
- March 10: Dr William Tatum
- March 17: Dr. Don Dewey
- March 24: Rev. Dan Clemens
- March 31: Rev Dan Clemens

## Find us online

First Baptist has its digital Courier newsletter, the pulpit schedule, link for giving and more on its website.

**[www.gofbch.org](http://www.gofbch.org)**



# Abell Circle Blanket Sunday

**Bettie Carmack celebrated her  
101st birthday on Feb 23**

Bettie lives with her daughter and attends her daughter's church. However, she'd love to hear from you. Her address is  
2078 Millville-Shandon Rd  
Hamilton, OH 45013.

Make sure you mention FBC in your signature so she knows which church you're from!

**March 24**

On March 24, the Abell Circle will again sponsor the Blanket Sunday project. We will collect donations to purchase bedding for the Serve City shelter & blankets for crisis situations from Church World Service. The cost of each blanket is \$10. Donations will be shared between both organizations. Checks to be made to ABW. Thank you for helping others!

### **Sunday School & Groups 9 A.M. Sundays**

Nursery/Toddlers – Room 206  
Children Pre-K – 6th grade – Room  
103/104  
Youth 7th – 12th grade – Room 112  
Berean Adult Bible Fellowship – Room  
200  
WINGS, Women In God's Service –  
Room 205

### **Wednesday groups**

#### **6 P.M.**

First Baptist Youth, grades 7-12 – Room  
100  
Adult Prayer & Bible Study – Room 200

#### **6:30 P.M.**

First Baptist Kids, Pre-K through 6th  
Room 107

### **First Baptist Youth**

7-12 grades  
Led by JD & Becky Simpson  
and Natalie Lakes

9 a.m. Sundays  
6 p.m. Wednesdays  
in Room 100, the youth room

### **First Baptist Kids**

Pre-K-6 grades  
Sundays @ 9 a.m.  
Room 103/104  
Nancy Whipple, Debby Gibson,  
Jill O'Hara, Lisa Witmer - Teachers

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.  
(Rm. 107)

Children's Worship Center

Jill O'Hara - Lead Teacher

# A message from missionaries Ann & Bill Clemmers



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## March Birthdays

Debra Clemens March 1  
Richard Hazelwood March 3  
Cameron Jenkins March 3  
Bruce Helton March 5  
Carolyn Allen March 6  
Andrew Schuermann March 7  
Nancy Humbach March 9  
Hannah Neiheisel March 10  
Janet Hazelwood March 12  
Debbie Miller March 12  
Gene Meder March 13  
Frank Smith March 15

Vivian Demmel March 16  
Emma Imhoff March 17  
Riley Bowling March 21  
Lisa Witmer March 24  
Bill Corley March 25  
Taylor Emenaker March 27  
Tyler Demmel March 27  
Freida Tuley March 29  
Katie Hoskins March 30  
Janie Millard March 30  
Tyler Griffin March 30  
Ann Brown March 31





# Sunday Evening Services

March 2024: 6-7 p.m. weekly

Rich Hazelwood will lead hymn singing. Prayer concerns will be shared. Bob Thiemann will lead the final teaching of the Lucado series Sunday, Feb. 25.

Dan Clemens will lead March 3, 10, 17, 24 focusing on the subject "DISTINCTLY BAPTIST." The teaching will include:

1. The Basics: Faith, Salvation, and the Scriptures.
2. Christian Responsibility: Soul Competency, the Priesthood of All Believers, Social Justice, and Christian Mission.
3. Ecclesiology: Believers' Church, Congregational Polity, Christian Calling and the Autonomy of the Local Church.
4. The Ordinances: Baptism and The Lord's Supper.
5. A Free Church in a Free Land: Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State.

Dan will be using as a guide *DISTINCTLY BAPTIST: Proclaiming Identity in a New Generation*, Brian C. Brewer, editor 2011 by Judson Press.

There will be no Evening Service Easter the 31st.

*Happy  
Easter!*



## Church to provide parking space on solar eclipse day

The rare Total Solar Eclipse visible in our area on April 8 has spurred a lot of local events, including some on that date at Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park, which is a neighbor of First Baptist Church of Hamilton.

The park has activities from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be using our church's parking lot for all of its parking. It will be shuttling folks to and from both locations. Please be advised our hill will be busy and is not directly set up as a viewing spot. Here are the details Pyramid Hill has released:

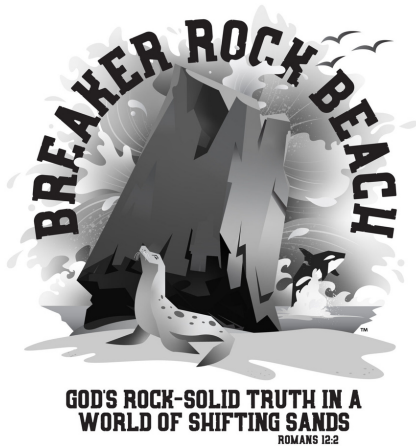
*More than 300 acres of land for viewing the total solar eclipse. Music from members of Butler Philharmonic (1-3:30 p.m.), create sun-themed crafts, play family friendly games and sip on eclipse-themed cocktails, and mocktails. Bring a picnic or pre-order a gourmet boxed lunch. View the new Mounds, Moon and Stars exhibition Park will provide safe-viewing glasses. 1763 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton. Parking is at First Baptist Church of Hamilton, 1501 Pyramid Hill Blvd. Park providing shuttle service all day between this lot and the park. Get tickets and more information at [www.pyramidhill.org/events](http://www.pyramidhill.org/events).*

## VBS slated for June 24-28

Calling all volunteers! We will be having a short informational meeting on March 3rd immediately following the worship service in room behind the stage in family center.

There are many areas that we need help in this year. If you can't help during the week of vbs, there will be plenty to do beforehand to prepare; especially in decorating.

Last year we had about 140 children. We will be advertising in the Hamilton city schools and mailing postcards to past attendees. Please mark your calendars to attend!



## Easter Cantata

On Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 7 p.m., the First Baptist Choir and musicians will be joined with the First United Methodist Church Choir, other community singers and a small orchestra to perform Joel Raney's "We Remember Calvary". This is a contemporary Tenebrae service that uses both traditional and contemporary hymns to paint a vivid and moving picture of Christ's last days and His journey to the cross. The overall tone of this service is one of reflection and worship.

## Tabitha Ministries

A group of six ladies attended our first Tuesday sewing day! We will meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 9:30-noon. We will be working on pillowcase dresses for our missionaries. Ann Clemmer has 1,700 children in her area! We will also be making quilts for Pathway to Hope along with lap quilts for our shut ins and baby quilts for our new babies at church. Please contact me if you know of a shut-in or new baby. We also have dress or quilt kits if you would like to sew something at home and bring it back to church! ~ Cheryl Motzer

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## How to tithe online

If you're using the internet, go to the website:

<https://fbchamilton.churchcenter.com/giving>

If you're on your phone or tablet, download the "Church Center" app and find First Baptist Church of Hamilton.

You will need your bank account website login details to set up recurring payments. Have that in hand before proceeding. We ask that you include the processing fee, which is .25 to .30 cents per donation.

Church Center can also be used for getting more information about FBCH and to check in on Sundays. It is a service of Planning Center, which we use to keep membership records and more.



**This is the Church  
Center app logo**

# When did First Baptist Hamilton start?

By Dan Clemens

When Rev. Timothy Mohon was with us at First Baptist Church of Hamilton for the American Baptist History & Polity Workshop, Saturday, February 10, 2024, he asked the question, "When did FBC Hamilton start?" Good question. It should be easy to answer. We should all know when our birthday is, right? Actually, it is easy, but it took awhile to get there.

We take as our source A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Hamilton, Ohio With a Brief Outline of Early Baptists of Southwestern Ohio, 1946. THE HISTORY COMMITTEE: Mrs. William Weiser, John W. Smith, Kenneth L. Jackson, (Chairman).

The first Baptist Church in southwest Ohio church was organized on the twentieth of January 1790 in Columbia, five miles above Cincinnati.

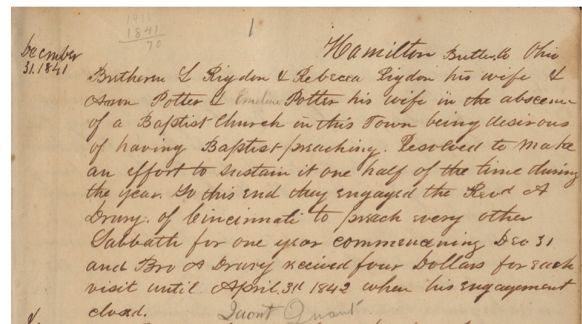
"The first church in this (Butler) county was organized at Fairfield and was for a long time the only place of public worship in this locality, which long ago became but a landmark. A second was established at Elk Creek, now Trenton. A third church, Little Prairie, now Middletown, was constituted in 1801, and later this church acquired a great reputation for foreign and home missions. Another was organized in Pleasant Run, about six miles below Hamilton, in 1802, and was received into the association in 1819, and united with the Hamilton-Rossville Baptist church in 1829. About this time a church was organized at Oxford, which, too, has long since ceased to exist.

The Hamilton-Rossville Baptist Church was organized in 1829. ... The church was organized with twenty members and grew rapidly, but it was during these years that the subject of missions became one of much interest and discussion, so much so that a division occurred in the Hamilton-Rossville church in 1836. Of sixty active members, only three stood favorable to the promoting of missionary enterprises, one being Mrs. Rebecca Rigdon, who later became a charter member of the present First Baptist Church of Hamilton At nearly every meeting of the Association, the subject of Missions came up for bitter discussion and finally caused a division among many churches, and, records show that those churches who were decidedly opposed to the missionary spirit, have long since lost their usefulness, which might well be expected of any church which cannot see beyond its four walls."

## ORGANIZATION OF A NEW CHURCH

"Five years after the division of the congregation in the Hamilton-Rossville church, a group still maintaining the missionary spirit, but with no organized efforts having previously been proposed, resolved to make an effort to have services and to sustain a preacher half of his time during the year. This group consisted of some very close friends, who on December 31, 1841 made this decision at the home of Dr. Loami Rigdon. This was most likely during a friendly visit, as the group included Mr. Aaron and Emeline Potter together with Dr. and Rebecca Rigdon.

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To realize their objective, they engaged Rev. A. Drury, of Cincinnati to preach every Sunday for one year at the rate of four dollars a visit. This continued only until April 3, 1842, when the agreement was closed. Elder Quont, of Turks Island was then called to preach all the time, however, his ministry did not prove satisfactory to those concerned and his labors ended July 10, 1842. Elder Osborn was asked to come and preach for one-half of his time for one year, which he did at a salary of two hundred dollars. Bro. L. Rigdon and Bro. Aaron Potter, each paying seventy-five dollars and the Ohio Baptist Convention paying fifty dollars.

“On April 18, 1843 an arrangement was made with the Muddy Creek Church to receive into their fellowship any persons who might be baptized by Elder Osborn, the body to be recognized as a branch of that church. The evangelistic spirit of the small congregation was well in evidence.

On February 28, 1844 Elder Osborn, being assisted by Elder Moore, held a series of meetings lasting until March 15. Then, on March 30, Elder Bryant and Elder Moore, assisting Elder Osborn, continued the meetings for nine days more— however, during all these services only four joined the church.

“The members met in a special session April 16, 1844 to consider becoming a branch of the nearest Baptist church, and after due deliberation, it was resolved to petition the Lockland church to receive them. There was no delay in supporting this resolution, as on April 20, just four days later, the Lockland church granted their request and letters of dismission from the Muddy Creek Church were accepted in the Lockland Church.”

Next month we will finish the story with the final account (spooler alert) of... “when ceremonies were conducted, to make it an independent organization. On April 14, 1846...” First Baptist’s official birthday (from my perspective) is April 14, 1846...” Look for the May issue to see if you agree.

**For God so loved the world that he gave  
his one and only Son, that whoever  
believes in Him shall not perish but  
have  
ETERNAL LIFE.**

**John 3:16**

