



# First Baptist Church of Jacksonville

2024 Annual Report



# Message from Pastor Heath

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Dear First Baptist Family,

Psalm 126:3 says, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." This might just be the perfect Bible passage to capture what the Lord has done this year at First Baptist. This is a report that tries to summarize a few of the very tangible blessings we have experienced in our ministry at First Baptist Church. As I read it, I was overwhelmed with gratitude, and I think you will be, too.

These are truly remarkable days in the life of our congregation. Everyone tells me that there is a wonderful sweetness in our relationships and a remarkable amount of common cause as we stand on the Scripture and preach the gospel to our city and one another. As you read about the exciting things the Lord is doing, I want you to know that it is a result of the Lord's grace working through you.

As you worship, grow, give, share, and serve, you are helping us to accomplish the work the Lord has given us to do. Our mission at First Baptist is to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life. That's a mission that we will never fully complete until Jesus returns, but I'm thankful for the many massive strides we took in 2024.

Blessings,



Video

Year In Review

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heath", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



# Local & Global Ministry

## JSO Stop Station

The Stop Station at the West Garage serves as a place for JSO officers to fill out paperwork and eat refreshments and serves about 100 individual stops weekly.

## Global Leadership Academy Serve Project

Over 100 volunteers served at the GLA Serve Day and provided over \$20,000 worth of labor.



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## Missions

This year 42 people (including 27 students), traveled to Madrid, Spain to partner with our IMB missionaries Josh and Megan Hill. Three additional advance trips were taken this year to Medfield, MA, North Africa, and the UK to set up larger trips in 2025.

Two missionary candidates from our church are completing the Field Personnel Orientation with the International Mission Board in preparation for being sent to the field this year, and in early 2025.



# Individual Missions Partners

## **Hunter & Meredith Guthrie**

First Baptist Church  
Medfield, MA

## **Taylor & Catherine Karst**

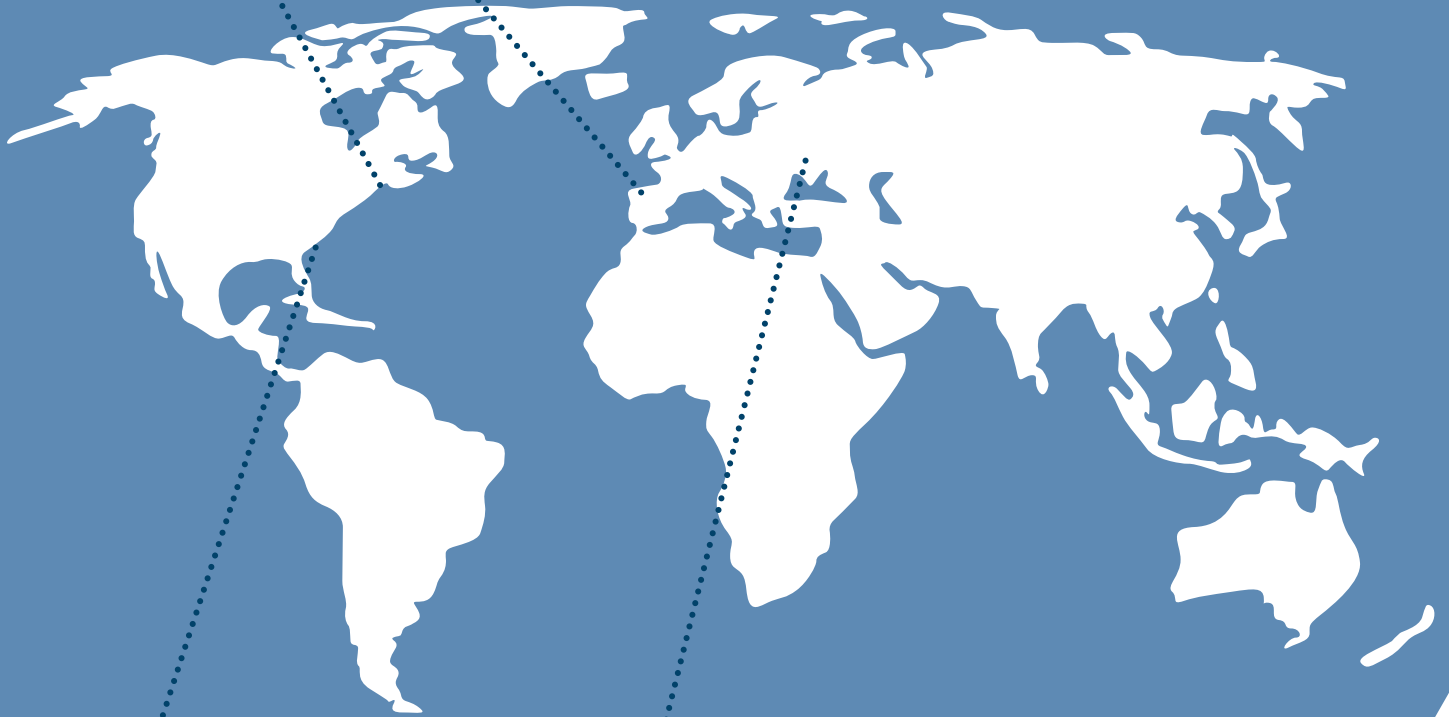
International Mission Board  
Middle East

## **Josh & Megan Hill**

International Mission Board  
Spain

## **Emily Arden**

International Mission Board  
Asia-Pacific Rim



## **Kevin & Jennifer Connell**

Cross Community Church  
Savannah, GA

## **Paul Walsh**

International Mission Board  
Asia-Pacific Rim

## **Kathy Gould**

Christians in Alliance  
Ukraine



# Denominational, Local, & International Partners

## Denominational Partners



INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD

FIRST COAST  
CHURCHES

DON'T  
PASTOR  
ALONE.



North American  
Mission Board



Florida Baptist  
Convention

*Right Beside You.*

## Local Partners



**SIDEWALK**  
MINISTRIES



## International Partners



The Gideons  
International



BCM  
WORLD

# Membership & Baptisms



Baptisms

Sunday Morning

## Downtown

91 New Members

23 Baptisms

331 Kids & Students in Sunday School

678 Adults in Sunday School



## Nocatee

77 New Members

22 Baptisms

157 Kids & Students in Sunday School

160 Adults in Sunday School

# Next Gen

## Glow Camp Downtown

- 689 Children
- 245 Volunteers

## Glow Camp Nocatee

- 277 Children
- 117 Volunteers



Recap  
Glow Camp



## College & Career

- The Bridge worship gathering attendance has grown by 39% since last year.
- Partnerships continue to grow with college campus ministries (BCM, CRU, and Ratio Christi).

## Summer Camp

- 233 Students
- 113 Adult Counselors & Volunteers





# Midweek

## Downtown

Nineteen different classes were offered this year with an average weekly attendance of 238. The classes were aimed at exploring various aspects of faith, personal growth, and Christian living. Topics ranged from practical guidance to deep theological discussions, catering to a wide array of interests and life stages.



Who Is Jesus?



Parenting Wayward Children



Pop Psychology vs. Jesus

## Nocatee

Fifteen different classes had an average weekly attendance of 93. The classes covered a variety of issues from "Grandparenting to the Glory of God," and "Finding God's Will," to "Jesus on Politics," and "The Trinity".





# Worship



Easter Concert

Risen Savior



## Adult

In 2024, the choir has seen remarkable growth, growing by 25 members and reaching a total of 135 members—so large that they have outgrown the previous choir room. Alongside the choir, the orchestra has grown by 4 members and now totals 35 dedicated musicians. If you would like more information

regarding choir and orchestra, please scan the codes.



Choir Facebook



Choir Instagram



## Children & Students

The children's choir average attendance was 145 with 157 children who participated in the children's Christmas concert.



Student worship had 105 participants, with 80 students in the choir and 25 in the student orchestra.



# Media

## Website

The website has been newly designed to allow for easier accessibility and to accommodate the growing numbers of traffic on our site. In 2024 alone, we had 300,000 new website visitors.

## Social Media

YouTube: Over 320.3K views and 47.7K watch hours which is up a total of 5% from last year. In addition, we have had 1.2K new subscribers which is over a 26% increase over last year.

Facebook, Instagram, & TikTok: Combined, these three channels brought in over 1M views of First Baptist content.

## App

The App was downloaded over 1,400 times with 104K app launches and over 800K impressions (how many times visitors tapped around in the app.)



Video

Year In Review



## Podcast

Marked By Grace had over 1,200 unique listeners with 8.6K views on YouTube.







# Get Involved

## Pray

- Pray for the preaching ministry of the Word, that God would grow His people through His Word and transform hearts in our church and community.
- Pray for our missions and outreach efforts, asking God to bless local and international ministry, to empower us to boldly share the gospel with the lost.
- Pray for the many young families we are reaching, that we as a church would love and care well for this growing demographic.
- Pray for the thousands of children and families we reach through events like Trunk of Treats, VBS, and Glow Camp, that they would hear the gospel and respond in repentance and faith.
- Pray for God's continued provision in the midst of economic challenges, trusting that He will meet our needs.

## Give

- Give a recurring gift online:
- Give with Required Minimum Distribution, Qualified Charitable Distribution, Stocks & Bonds:



[fbcjax.com/give](https://fbcjax.com/give)

Call Jeff Sims - 904-265-7219



# Reaching all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life

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+904-356-6077

[www.fbcjax.com](http://www.fbcjax.com)

125 W. Ashley St., Jacksonville, FL 32202