

# THE VISITOR *FOCUS*

## ***Vision Lunch Will Jump-Start New Church Calendar Year***

***The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” –Exodus 33:14–16 (NIV)***

Without the Lord’s presence, leading, and guidance, what would make the Lord’s people different from all others? This was true for Moses as he led the people of God out of Egypt. This is true for us, today, who are gathered as Christ’s church.

Back in January, the pastoral staff and the Church Coordination Team (CCT) began to prayerfully discern where the Lord’s presence was leading FBCM for the 2024–25 ministry year. During the CCT Retreat, we considered the church’s culture and how that contributed to how we follow God’s presence. Each area of ministry made goals and developed a strategy for following God’s call. This is how we came to make Mark 10:45 our watchword: “Not to be served, but to serve.”

But it does the church no good if the CCT are the only one’s chasing God’s presence through this watchword. Vision Lunch is a time for all of us to gather together to embrace this watchword by doing three things:

1. Thank God for his faithfulness to FBCM last year.
2. Learn about how God’s moving FBCM faithfully into this next year.
3. Take the first steps to follow God’s call.

### **WORSHIP**

Participating as the body of Christ in attending to the Apostles’ teaching, breaking bread, praying, and enjoying fellowship with others. Our greeters, musicians, and many others make this possible each Sunday morning.

### **THE WAY**

Becoming disciples who open God’s Word together. As children’s, youth, and adult classes continue to expand, consider how you might be a disciple who serves disciples through teaching.

### **WITNESS**

Seeking to invite others to know Christ. Vision Lunch will highlight some of the ways we’ll continue to support global servants and ministers, locally and abroad. We’ll continue serving with longtime partners and expanding our witness through new groups this spring.

### **WORK**

Intentionally serving alongside the surrounding community. Vision Lunch will share opportunities to deepen FBCM’s relationships with our surrounding neighborhood and offer dedicated times of community service to our neighbors at upcoming events.

God is with us. God is guiding us. And he is moving us to lives of service, joy, and love.

Vision Lunch is a time to join in on what God is already doing in the life of First Baptist Church Muncie!





# Vision Lunch Details

**Who:** everyone

**What:** Panera Bread

**When:** noon

**Where:** FBC fellowship hall

**Cost:** no charge (donations accepted)

**Registration on Church Center App or link in the Wednesday Weekly**

## *Connecting Calling and Calendars*

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” I (Pastor Kendall) meditate regularly on this quote by Annie Dillard and Tish Harrison Warren’s book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*. They keep me grounded. They remind me that a life well-lived is not about the quantity of content. God’s design for his people isn’t a hyper-programmed, overcommitted schedule.

What we see in Scripture is God giving purpose to his people. God called Abraham to be the father of many nations, but interestingly enough, God only gave him *one* son to whom he should give his time, care, and attention. God called Moses to free the Hebrews from slavery, but interestingly enough, God only gave him *one* escape route out of Egypt. Even Jesus, who is King of Kings, remembered to practice what he preached in the parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus regularly left the ninety-nine to go after the *one*: Zaccheus in the tree, the woman who touched the hem of his clothes, you, and even me.

As Christians, a life well-lived is one that is faithful to God’s calling. In a world that is constantly throwing more at us, I’m increasingly convinced that the only way to be faithful is to connect our calling with our calendars. It’s not about quantity; it’s about the quality of how we spend each day.

The FBCM leadership team has discerned that from August 2024 to July 2025 God’s calling our church “not to be served, but to serve.” To be faithful to this calling, the CCT has worked to plan each congregational event to intentionally correlate to the 4 Ws of that watchword. But this is only half of the work to be done. The other half of the work remains in your hands.

You have many choices to make about how you will spend your time in the coming days and months. As you make those choices, how will you do the work to connect this congregational calling with your personal calendar this year? 🏰

*In Memoriam*  
*We remember*  
*Joan Keesling,*  
*Joe Johnson, and*  
*Barb Eidson, who passed*  
*away recently. May God*  
*continue to comfort their*  
*families and friends.*

### Co-Senior Pastors—

Kendall Ellis and Jonathan Balmer

Worship Arts Pastor—Dr. Clifton Davis

*The Visitor* FOCUS ©First Baptist Church Muncie  
309 E. Adams, Muncie, IN 47305

PHONE: 765-284-7749 | EMAIL: [info@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:info@fbcmuncie.org) |

WEBSITE: [www.fbcmuncie.org](http://www.fbcmuncie.org)

Molly Flodder, Editor

Michelle Heimlich, Graphic Designer/Photographer

Julie Davis, Copy Editor