

THE VISITOR *FOCUS*

FBCM Hosts Biennial for American Baptist Attendees


On Friday afternoon and evening, September 27, and Saturday, September 28, nearly 150 American Baptists are expected to convene at First Baptist Church in Muncie to mark the Biennial gathering of the American Baptist Churches of IN and KY. This is an important time of worship and training, with a few recognitions, a very brief business session, and shared meals. Related organizations will also be present for their usual Ministry Fair displays, which will be open during breaks.

“Just like any Region Biennial, this event is not just for pastors but also for church lay people. If pastors return from an event with a group from their church who have heard the same excellent speakers, and all have become excited by what they have heard, they can accomplish so much more together as a local church in changing lives for Jesus. This year’s sessions are expected to have that positive impact and will include discussions about drawing the younger generations into our churches as well!”
—Rev. Rusty Strickler, Associate Region Minister (who now supports Muncie First Baptist & other Salamonie Association churches)

Fresh Expressions will be key presenters in the worship settings on Friday and Saturday. Fresh Expressions is an organization that helps pastors and leaders equip their churches to reach more people for Christ. According to their leadership team, “We believe that inspiring the people in your church to pay attention to the people around them, invite connection, and spark conversations will open up opportunities to foster dynamic faith communities.”

According to Mark Thompson, executive minister of ABC-IN/KY, “The theme of this year’s biennial is ‘Called: We don’t need to complicate sharing Christ with people in our lives,” says Mark. “Fresh Expressions will help us think about being more organic and how to work witnessing about Jesus into the way we live our every day lives.”


There will be a brief business meeting before one of the worship sessions, and delegates from representative

churches will be voting on a few regional issues. The size of our church requires us to have up to five delegates voting on business matters. In their September meeting, the Church Coordination Team (CCT) will be recommending people who might be willing to serve in those roles. 

Plan to Attend Sessions and Volunteer

Volunteers are encouraged to attend any or most of the sessions. If you are working on a particular day, there is no charge for your event participation. If you would just like to attend the conference the cost is \$20 for one day or \$40 for both days with sessions, meals, and snacks.

Hosting a conference takes a huge group of volunteers. Please see page two for a list of volunteer opportunities, and sign up instructions.

For those who prefer not to sign up electronically, **Janis Wright**, church clerk, will be helping with volunteer scheduling during the next two Sundays, September 15 and 22. She will be filling in assignments during donut hour in the Fellowship Hall and then again after church at the front of the sanctuary on both Sundays. September 22 is the sign-up deadline. 

“I would like to thank each of you at FBC Muncie for hosting our upcoming biennial gathering. As the pastor of a church who recently hosted one, I hope that you too will experience the satisfaction, joy, and sense of unity that can come from hosting!” —
John Campbell,
President of the ABC-IN/KY Board

View this sign-up sheet of volunteer opportunities for September 27-28, then use the sign-up link that will be emailed to you, or check the Church Center app to sign up electronically.

ABC IN/KY 2024 Biennial FBCM Volunteer Sign-Up			
			Events begin Fri. at 1:30 p.m.
Set up and Ministry Fair Focus (5 Total)			First day ends Fri. at 10:00 p.m.
Ministry Fair Lead (Previous set up plus Fri.)	Fri. 12–2 p.m.	Emily Anderson	
Set up crew (4) (Earlier in week—Time set by group)			
Set up troubleshooter (Floating during events)	Fri. 2–9 p.m.		
Security (1 Per Day)			
Security Associate—Fri. afternoon/evening			Second day begins Sat. at 8: 30 a.m.
Security Associate—Sat. morning/afternoon			Events end Sat. 3 p.m.
Opening Greeters (3 Total Each Day)			
Front Narthex Doors (Fri. 1–2:45 p.m. and/or Sat. 8:15–9 a.m.)	See Left		
Semicircle Drive / Welcome Center Door "	See Left		
Northwest Bank Lot / Office Door "	See Left		
Media (Likely 4 Total Will Divide Days)			Worship/Meetings in Sanctuary—
Sound (Two Friday and All Three Saturday Sessions)			Fri. afternoon: 2:30–4:15 p.m.
Slides (Two Friday and All Three Saturday Sessions)			Fri. evening: 7–8:30 p.m.
Worship			Sat. morning: 9–9:30 a.m. (Business)
Worship Lead		Clif Davis	Sat morning: 10–11:30 a.m.
Worship Assistants (5) One at each Service at right			Sat. afternoon: 1:30–3 p.m
Friday Dinner (13 Total)			Fri. Dinner: 5–6 p.m.
Kitchen Lead	12–7 p.m.	Brian Green	
Assistant Lead	6:00–7:30 p.m.	Steve Roberts	
Meal Prep and Serving (3)	3–6:30 p.m.		
Meal Prep / Serving and Clean up (4)	4–8 p.m.		
Drinks / Putting out, Serving, and Clean up	4:30–7 p.m.		
Drinks / Putting out, Serving, and Clean up	4:30–7 p.m.		
Clean up only (2)	6–7:30 p.m.		
Dessert Reception (4 Total)			Fri. Reception: 9:00–9:45 p.m.
Kitchen Lead	8–10 p.m.	Steve Roberts	
Desserts / Serving and Clean up (3)	8–10 p.m.		
Continental Breakfast (6 Total)			Sat. Breakfast: 8:30–9:00 a.m.
Kitchen Leads	7:30–9:45 a.m.	Larry, Donna Fouch	
Drinks / Prep, Serving, and Clean Up (2)	7:45–9:30 a.m.		
Doughnuts / Prep, Serving, and Clean Up (2)	7:45–9:30 a.m.		
Saturday Lunch (11 total)			Sat. Lunch: Noon–1:15 p.m.
Kitchen Lead	9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Mark Flodder	
Meal Prep and Serving (4)	10:00–1:30 p.m.		
Meal Prep, Serving, and Clean Up (2)	11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.		
Drinks / Serving and Clean up	11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.		
Drinks / Putting out, Serving, and Clean up	11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.		
Clean up only (2)	1–2:30 p.m.		
Tear Down / Get Ready for Sunday—After Last Event (5 Total)			Sat.: After 3 p.m.

Co-Senior Pastors—
Kendall Ellis and Jonathan Balmer
Worship Arts Pastor—Dr. Clifton Davis

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