

Being a Christian is
like being a pumpkin!

God picks you from the patch and
brings you in.
(John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all
the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6:)

Then He carves you a new smiling
face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)



The Reflector

Reflecting the life of First Baptist Church Amherst

October 2025



First Baptist Church Amherst

902-667-2001 www.firstbaptistamherst.com

90 Victoria Street, Amherst, NS B4H 1X6

Worship on Sundays at 10:30 AM

Senior Minister Rev. Jeff G. White, B.Sc, M.Div.

jgwhite@ns.aliantzinc.ca 902-614-1011

Minister of Christian Education Rev. Marlene Quinn

Minister Emeritus Rev. Byron Corkum, B.A., M.Div.

Organist & Choir Director Kevin Dupuis, B.Mus, B.Ed.

Administrative Assistant Angela Marks

ambapt@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Custodian Shauna McCallum

Thanksgiving 2025

Dear First Baptist folk and friends,

The gifts of creation – the blessings of Creator – are all around us. Like many of you, I enjoy the fall so much. Not only is it a season of food and festivals, in my own family there are plenty of birthdays and anniversaries. When my parents were expecting their first baby, I was due at the end of October. So I would be a Hallowe'en pumpkin. But I was born a few weeks early; I ended up being a Thanksgiving turkey!

But seriously, I ponder the gift-giving of the autumn. Family and friends drop off tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, jams and pickles. The forests display vibrant colours to our eyes and shed their nourishing leaves and needles upon the ground. We who worship together offer our voices and offerings to Almighty God with grateful and hopeful hearts.

May our Redeemer provide you with the gifts needed now: hope for these days, healing for pains and problems, guidance for the path forward, and strength for courageous actions.

Grace and joy to you all,

Rev. Jeff G. White
Senior Minister

Valdy Concert September 21, 2025



The Fellas Singing at Warren Baptist Church



CBAC Prayer Link

(Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada)

October 5: During Pastor's Appreciation Month, pray for the pastors who faithfully serve and lead their congregations. Thank God for their dedication, and ask for God's strength, encouragement, and rest for them. Pray also for CBAC's Leadership Development department (Garth Williams and Andrew Myers) who work to equip and strengthen leaders who can lead healthy and vibrant churches.

October 12: This week let's give thanks for God's many blessings! Pray with gratitude for God's provision, faithfulness, and the relationships that enrich our lives. Ask that our hearts remain focused on Christ in every season and that we would share his generosity and love with those around us. Thank God for the opportunity to bless others with whatever blessings God has entrusted to us.

October 19: Pray for the Next Conference, a time dedicated to equipping and inspiring youth and children's ministry workers. Ask God to use this event to bring fresh ideas, renewed energy, and deeper commitment to those ministering to the next generation. Pray for meaningful connections and encouragement as they continue this vital work.

October 26: Pray for the partnership of Baptists across Canada through Canadian Baptist Ministries to advance God's mission locally and globally. Pray for staff working nationally and internationally through an integrated approach with partners and local churches around the world in the areas of building the church, kids at risk, justice, poverty, and crisis response. Pray for the fulfillment of the vision to see a broken world made new as the Good News of Jesus is shared in word and deed.

To The Congregation of First Baptist Church,
As I sit at my desk and write this letter, the sun is shining in my window; when I look out the window I can see the autumn leaves. I find it hard to believe another whole year has passed and this is my second letter to you as your Minister of Christian Education. So....where did this holiday originate?

In 1621, the pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, held what is thought to be the first Thanksgiving in North America, giving thanks for the end to a drought and a bountiful harvest. Without the help of the native people, who shared planting, hunting, fishing knowledge and techniques, the pilgrims would have died.

For the majority of people today Thanksgiving Weekend is a time to spend with family and friends, and oh yes...there is food...lots of food...turkey, fresh vegetables, fruits and of course pumpkin pie. For some Thanksgiving Day is just another day so they do not celebrate. We have just endured a very dry humid summer. I believe we need to thank God for his provision of water, food and shelter. Even though produce is smaller this year due to the lack of rain we still have food to eat and even though some wells may have gone dry there is still water to drink...so you can have your morning coffee.

Regardless of how you spend your Thanksgiving Holiday, I pray you will take the time to think about everything you are thankful for, bow your head and thank God for His provision. Happy Thanksgiving Day, Happy Turkey Day, and may you be mighty blessed by God this year and be thankful.

In HIS Service
Rev. Marlene

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Weekly Prayer Time

Mondays at 2:15 pm. Led by Jeff White, the sessions in October and November will use classic prayers from history. No meeting on October 13 or 27.

Bible Basics

Jeff will offer a **weekly Bible study group** on **Tuesdays** this fall, **1:15 – 2:30 pm**, probably meeting in the Parlour. The topic? The group will decide. The dates will be **October 7, 14 & 21, November 4, 11, 18.**

Pilgrimage Day

Saturday, October 11 Join Jeff for *part (or all)* of a **25 km walk** in our area. Exact route is being finalized as this Reflector goes to print. The day is simple. Dress for the weather. Pack some water and food. Start and end where you need too. There will be stops along the way for refueling and bathrooms. And Jeff will plan some moments along the way with prayer or meditation or poetry and so forth. Storm date: October 18th. Do contact Jeff if you plan to take part, thanks.

Halloween Craft Night

Join Rev. Marlene at FBC basement on **Wednesday, October 22** from **6:00 pm -7:30 pm**. Make a spider web, paint eye balls, colour Halloween Pictures, get a small treat bag. **Ages 5-10**. Parents are encouraged to stay and help their children or stay for a chit chat. This is a free event. However, you must **register by calling 902-667-2001** during regular office hours as there are limited spaces available. Watch for the posters coming soon!

Cookie Crew

This team makes cookies in our church kitchen for the unhoused and also for church coffee time. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the church office door.

Prayer Team

There is a small group who will pray for prayer requests, confidentially & confidently. Contact Jeff White:

E-mail: jgwhite@ns.aliantzinc.ca Phone: 902-614-1011.

Stay Connected by Email

If you would like to have your **email address** added to our church contact list, please let Angela know. You can reach her by phoning the church office at **(902) 667-2001** or by email at ambapt@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Benevolent Fund

The **first Sunday of every month** we have **Holy Communion** during the service. We also encourage *benevolent offerings*, which can be designated as such on your envelope, for our Benevolent Fund. Through your benevolent offering, we have been able to share with those in need in a caring and compassionate way. In addition to our annual commitment to the operating budget of the Amherst Food Bank and the packing of Christmas Cheer Boxes, our church has received requests for financial assistance for prescriptions, food, and travel for medical appointments. We have partnered with other organizations to cover more expensive items such as rent, power and heating costs. **Your continued support is appreciated !!**

REGULAR, REPEATING MINISTRIES

Nursing Home Services

We bring joy and encouragement to local nursing homes through a short service of scripture, song, and fellowship. It's a wonderful way to share God's love and brighten someone's day! If you'd like to be part of this heartwarming ministry, please contact the Church Office.

Singing at White Birches

Once a month on **Thursday afternoons**, a small group visits **White Birches** to share music and song. We gather a few days beforehand for a short rehearsal, and all are welcome to join—no special training needed, just a willingness to sing along! If you'd like to be part of this joyful ministry, please contact the Church Office for more details.

Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to help with **Sunday coffee time!** It's a wonderful way to serve while enjoying fellowship and conversation. A **sign-up sheet** is available on the **table in the Vestry**—thank you for helping keep this tradition going!

Volunteers for October

Flowers: Sarah Smith; **Communion Clean-up:** Bev Curry & Karen Fraser; **Ushering & Offering:** Team Three: John Matthews, Carol O'Regan, Merlin Brown, Nancy Allen, Norma MacGregor, Pauline Lusby, David Lusby (Team Leader), Sharon White, George Godfrey, Marina Godfrey.

Offering Options

Pre-Authorized Giving; E-mail Money Transfer, Interac/Debit; Offering Envelopes.

Baking Bread Demonstration

The **Board of CE** invites you to join Joyce Hollis (leader) and friends for a hands-on demonstration in making **homemade white bread**. On **Wednesday, October 22 at 1:00 pm**, come enjoy the warmth of fresh bread, a cup of tea or coffee, and a time of fellowship together! **Limited space – only 10 spots available** (sign-up sheet in the Vestry.)

Congregational Breakfast

A **Congregational Breakfast** will be held in the **Christie Room** following the worship service on **Sunday, October 26**. All are warmly invited to share in a meal and a time of fellowship together. Donations received will support the important work of our Benevolent Committee.

FBC Christmas Tea – White Elephant Table

Once again, FBC will be hosting a **Christmas Tea!** As part of this special event, we are **collecting donations** for our **White Elephant Table**. If you have jewelry, crafts, re-gifts, or lightly used treasures to share, we would be most grateful. Should you require assistance in delivering items to the church, please contact the Church Office for arrangements (902) 667-2001. Thank you for helping us make this festive tradition success.

Universal Portraits

Good news! **Portraits** will be ready for **pick-up** on **Sunday, November 2**. **Photo books** are on the way too and should be here in time for Christmas!

Jeff White will be away on vacation days and the CABF Conference between October 22-29.

October 2025 at First Baptist

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School	29 1:15 pm Prayer Time	30 	1 1:00 pm Christmas Tea Meeting 4:00 pm Board of CE	2 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 CABF Assembly & AGM	4 CABF Assembly & AGM
5 10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:45 am Helping Hands Meeting	6 1:00 pm Line Dancing 2:15 pm Prayer Time 4:00 pm IODE	7 1:15 pm Bible Basics	8 	9 10:00 am Christmas Cheer Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 	11 Pilgrimage Day
12 10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School	13 Church & Office Closed 	14 10:00 am Practice for White Birches 1:15 pm Bible Basics 6:30 pm Board of Mgmt.	15	16 1:30 pm Singing at White Birches 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Fibre Arts Festival 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Quilt Show	18 Fibre Arts Festival 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Quilt Show
19 10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School 2:00 pm Baby Shower	20 1:00 pm Line Dancing 2:15 pm Prayer Time	21 9:00 am Cookie Crew 12:00 pm Bible Basics	22 1:00 pm Bread Making Demonstration 6:00 pm Halloween Craft Night	23 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 
26 10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:45 am Congregational Breakfast	27 1:00 pm Line Dancing 2:15 pm Prayer Time	28 1:15 pm Bible Basics	29 	30 10:00 am Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 	1