

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

THE BEACON

Words from Pastor Chris

One year ago, you approved a new NextGen Pastor position and chose a search committee to find the next person to come lead our student ministry. I have said a few times over the last few weeks that it has been a trying year. While many fellow pastors warned me about how difficult our search would be, I wasn't quite prepared for how difficult it ended up being. While we had some good candidates, nothing ever seemed to materialize. While it was easy to become discouraged, we kept praying along with many of you. The circumstances surrounding Bro. Brad's coming to our church are truly a testament to God ordering our steps. Looking back on all the candidates that didn't work out, we can easily see why now. God had chosen Brad.

As Brad begins ministry in earnest over the next few weeks, there are a few things that I would ask everyone to do. Number one, I ask that you commit to pray for him and his family every day. Pray first that God would protect their family from the spiritual attacks that will look to derail ministry. Pray for their family as they transition to a new church. Pray for them as they begin to build relationships with our young people and volunteers. Pray that they will be able to quickly earn the trust of those same people. Pray that God would help them to navigate each challenge that will come from such a transition and ministry.

Secondly, I would love everyone to work hard at making them feel welcome. They are now forever part of the FBC Florala family. Go out of your way to make conversation, give them an encouraging word, and if possible, invite them for a meal.

Third, I want to encourage you to pray about how you can assist them in ministry. Youth and children's ministry requires many people in a church of our size. While we have many great volunteers, if there is some way you can pitch in, then, do. As Brad identifies specific needs over time, he will need willing vessels to help carry out the ministry. You have shown how committed you are to our young people by approving this position but let's not expect Bro. Brad to have to do all the work on his own. It will take each of us.

As I close, I want to say a special thank you to our search committee. Wade Farmer, Donnie Clark, Brittany Klawitter, and Laura Ashley Radney have served so faithfully. They have poured through resumes, met multiple times, interviewed multiple people, prayed multiple prayers, and experienced the roller coaster of emotion that comes with such responsibility. If you see them, please be sure to say thank you for their service to get us to this point.

Blessings,
Bro. Chris

AUGUST 2025
ISSUE 178



Opportunities For Worship

SUNDAY
Sunday School 8:45am
Worship 10:00am

WEDNESDAY
Dinner 5:30pm
Requested Donation
is \$5 for Adult Meals
Bible Study for ALL
6:00-7:00pm

will be participating in this event August 3rd. Jennifer has not yet set a time so I will be letting everyone know by our GroupMe

VBS RECAP

Come! Magnify the Lord with me! Let's exalt his name together!

This is exactly what you, FBC Florala, did with us just a few weeks ago at VBS! This command comes from Psalm 34:3 and was our theme verse the week of VBS as we were "Discovering the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things"!

I want to start by saying "thank you, thank you & thank you" from the bottom of my heart for your support, dedication, commitment, time, prayers, talent, and anything else that I probably missed. If I named off every task and every job, I am certain I would miss giving someone a proper "thank you"! Your job during VBS, no matter what it was, ultimately led to allowing us to share the Gospel, plant & water Gospel seeds and just love on kids!

VBS is such a special time in my life, and probably the life of many of you. It is a highlight of many kids' summers. It is a fun week that kids (and adults!) get to enjoy, have an awesome time, and become absolutely worn out, but isn't that cost of exhaustion worth every bit of the eternal rewards

that people might get to experience? You chose to play a role in that and I am so grateful, but even more, I pray that the Lord will bless you for your commitment!

During the week of VBS we averaged 146 kids & adults, per night. On average we had 67 kids attend per night, but had a total of 90 kids come at least one night! We averaged 49 workers per night and had 31 in the adult class! I love that so many kids were exposed to the Gospel, and I was absolutely overwhelmed at those numbers of adults! What a blessing to have almost one worker, per kid in average attendance! You all showed up, ready to work!

If you helped in any way, we will be having a recap meeting July 27th, right after service. We will be talking about what went well and what we can change for next year. I want to hear from you!

Again, thank you and rest up, because planning for next year will be right around the corner!

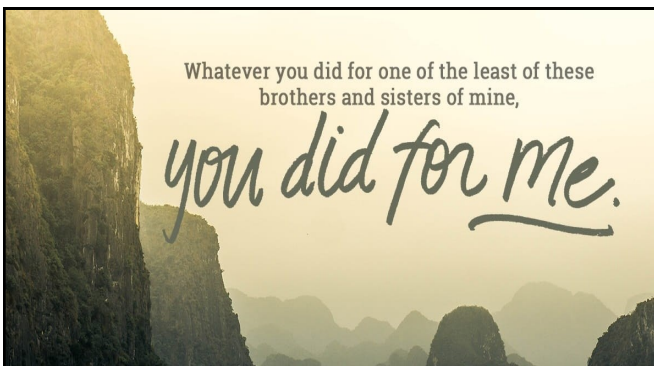
VBS Director, Katy Davenport

SOUL SISTERS

Soul Sisters BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!!!!!! Yes Soul Sisters will be participating in this event August 3rd. Jennifer has not yet set a time so I will be letting everyone know by our GroupMe page. Please wear your Soul Sister's T-shirts if you have one and bring something cool to drink. This is August in the south so it will be HOT!!!

We have 2 games to play and pencil pouches, colored pencils, paper and Germ X to hand out. Hope to see all my Soul Sister's there!!!

GOD BLESS, Tabitha Coverstone



MEN'S MINISTRY

ONE NIGHT. ONE PURPOSE. MEN'S CONFERENCE

AUGUST 1ST

5:00 PM - MEAL
6:00 PM - CONFERENCE BEGINS

Join men from Crenshaw County and surrounding areas for a powerful, purpose-filled night of connection and spiritual growth. Come expecting an encounter with God through fellowship, dynamic speakers, worship & prayer.



Scan the QR code to RSVP and help us plan for food!

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. John Ed Mathison
Leadership Ministries



Gary Winstead
Ino Baptist Church



MT. ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH

328 North Mt. Zion Road
Brantley, AL 36009

Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/mtzionbrantley>

Text or Call for More Information
(334) 406-6158 or (334) 488-1129

- We will meet at 3:45 in the church parking lot. Leave at 4:00.
- No Charge for meal.
- A Love Offering Will Be Taken.
- Let Brent know if interested.

BRO. BRENT- PROVERBS 3:5-6

Tithe.ly

Giving to FBC has never been easier! Our Church App has the church information + GIVING APP.
<https://tithe.ly.app.link/fbc-florala>

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

Our sales are \$7,501.00 so far this month. On Food Distribution Day in the month of July, we served 171 families, and handed out 6,200 pounds of food.

Our store will be open on Saturday, August 2 from 9am-2pm for your shopping pleasure!

On Food Friday we were delighted to have a few new hands to help. We welcome Katy Davenport and all 3 of their girls, Raeleigh, Lila and Allie as well as Missy Zessin. We loved having you there to help and hope to see you each Food Friday! Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

As we always say, we appreciate your donations, those of you who shop with us, and everyone who volunteers in some capacity in our store or as we prepare for food distribution (this involves unloading trucks of food and bagging food to hand out), and of course those of you who work so hard on distribution day. We love you and we could not do what we do without each and every one of you! You are such a blessing to so many!

God Bless You All,
Cindy Phillips

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

At FBC FLORALA, we want to be known as a church on mission - an Acts 1:8 church. Missions is not just an international field, or a North American field, but a local field as well. This is your opportunity to make an impact for the Kingdom.

Missions Opportunities

1. Our church will serve as an official DROP-OFF CENTER for shoeboxes. We will be servicing the area of Florala, Lockhart, Laurel Hill, Paxton (southern Covington County and northern Okaloosa and Walton counties). The National Collection Week is Mon., Nov. 17 – Mon., Nov. 24. Our church will be open each day for people to drop off boxes. Please let me know if you'd be interested in helping me and Missy man the drop-offs.
2. Please pray about you and your family joining me and Missy as we travel to Atlanta, GA, to process shoeboxes at the OCC processing center. There is something there for EVERYONE to do. It is one of the best short term mission trips I have ever been on.

Brent Zessin



<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>



Bethesda House will hold a
Yard Sale in our parking lot on
Sat., Aug. 16 from 7 am-12 noon.

All proceeds will benefit
Bethesda House and their ministry!
Make plans to come shop!!

August Volunteers - Thank You for Your Faithfulness!

Aug. 3	Flowers - Bobby & Cindy Phillips Nursery - Jeff & Jennifer B., Chloe R.	Greeters - Jonathan & Adeana Majors Children Church - Brandon & Tristan Wehrly
Aug. 10	Flowers - Eos & Michele Williams Nursery - Kim T., Addy C., Rose H.	Greeters - Myron & Sheila Anderson Children Church - Kaleb & Camryn Casey
Aug. 17	Flowers - Myron & Sheila Anderson Nursery - Stephen & Lora B.	Greeters - Wade Farmer & Jessie Coughenour Children Church - Lynn P., Brittany K.
Aug. 24	Flowers - Jonathan & Adeana Majors Nursery - Dustin & Ashley G.	Greeters - Dennis & Rhea Golden Children Church - Katy D., Kim G.
Aug. 31	Flowers - Rose Haile Nursery - Rhonda, Trevor, Emily	Greeters - Ken & Sue Rose Children Church - Paiyton P., Connor V.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I challenge you to read through these reasons and decide which of them apply to your Sunday school class. Then take action. These reasons came from an article from Ken Braddy on why he believes the Sunday Schools in many churches are declining. Ken Braddy currently serves as the Director of Sunday School & Network Partnerships for Lifeway Christian Resources. From 2010 through 2021, he was the managing director of Lifeway's adult ongoing Bible studies such as Explore The Bible & Bible Studies For Life.

Reason 1: Churches are not starting new groups regularly.

Reason 2: Groups are not working prospect lists.

"If you starve anything long enough, it will die." This is especially true of Sunday School or small groups that are designed to reach new people.

Reason 3: Teachers are not delivering quality, engaging, and interactive Bible studies.

Lecture is the dominant form of teaching in our Sunday Schools, and Sunday School has a reputation for being boring.

Reason 4: We've forgotten the true mission of Sunday School.

Sunday School is a foundational strategy for making disciples. That's the core mission: make disciples.

Reason 5: People are not inviting others to attend their group's Bible study.

The invitation of a friend is the #1 reason why people attend a Bible study.

Reason 6: Many Sunday School groups (adults) are just too large.

Large groups will not produce disciples in the same way that smaller groups will. Jesus' model was to work with a group of 12 and a group of 3.

Larger groups are places where people can hide. It's difficult to "stick" in a large group because you simply are not missed like you are in a smaller group.

Reason 7: We no longer set growth goals.

Reason 8: We are not visiting people in the home.

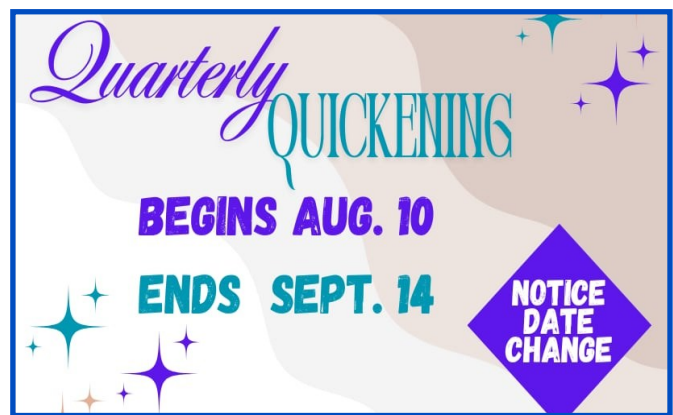
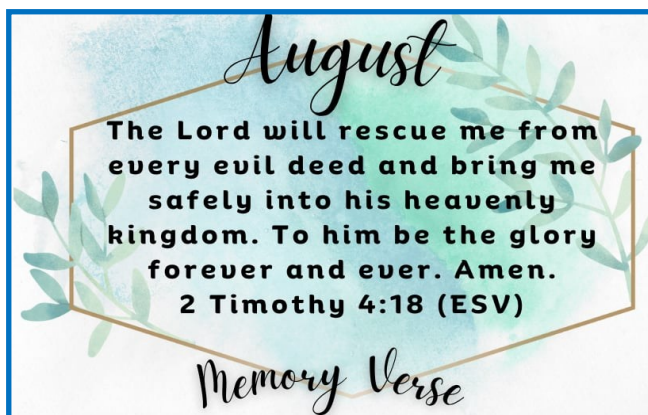
Reason 9: Sunday School is hard work.

Reason 10: Sunday School is thankless work.

The great news is this: "Sunday School works IF you work Sunday School."

TRUST IN THE LORD! Proverb 3:5-6

BRO BRENT



PASTOR:

BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

NEXTGEN PASTOR:

BRO. BRAD ELMORE

ASSOC. PASTOR:

BRO. BRENT ZESSIN

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

DALE COLE

ACTIVE DEACONS:

AL BENNETT

JOHN COVERSTONE

CARLTON DUKES

WADE FARMER

DARRELL FOLEY

BOBBY PHILLIPS

JAMES PICKRON

JEREMY RADNEY (CH)

RICHARD REEVES

GREG TAYLOR

WELCOME BRAD, MARIA & FAMILY

We are so blessed to welcome with open arms and hearts, our new NextGen Pastor and his precious family!

Our prayer is that you will feel our love and know that it is genuine. We are thrilled to have you on board as we all minister here at FBC and beyond. Know that we are here to help you as you get started, and to continue to be available as you have needs that we can help with.

FBC is excited as we move onward and upward with a brand new family on staff and in the ministry here! WELCOME TO FBC!

FBC Staff & Congregation

LADIES MINISTRY

Our ladies were very busy this past month. VBS kept us active with decorating and set-up, teaching the kids, helping with crafts and music, supervising recreation activities, cooking and clean-up. FBC is blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who show up to help in any capacity and use their talents to make VBS special for everyone.

And on Saturday, July 19th, many of our ladies brought delicious finger foods to a Meet & Greet for our congregation to get better acquainted with our Next Gen Pastor candidate and his lovely family. We are all so pleased that the next morning our church voted to hire Brad Elmore to fill that position.

Some of our ladies meet on designated Sunday afternoons to go out into our community in teams with others from our church as part of our Fully Flood Flo-rala evangelistic vision. The teams visit in the community. These "knock on door visits" can be scary and intimidating, but also so very rewarding. We offer to pray with the people we meet, and we share the gospel with them.

The women of our church are always busy working in some type of ministry that they have a love for or a special talent to share. If you haven't found your "spot" yet, just pick something and try it. You'll either love it or know you need to find another place to serve. Either way you are working for the Lord until you find your special place.

Hope you have a great end of summer!
Ladies Ministry, Sheila Anderson

PRAYERS WITH FEET

Our next scheduled Prayers with Feet meeting will be Sunday, August 10th at 4:00PM. All ladies in our church are invited to join us for a time of prayer and planning of how to put "FEET" to those prayers.

Hope to see you there,
Shelia Anderson

**August
Memory Verse**
2 Tim. 4:18 (ESV)

**The Lord will
rescue me from
every evil deed
and bring me
safely into his
heavenly kingdom.
To him be the
glory forever and
ever. Amen.**

August 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



		Men Meet @ FBC for Prayer Time 8:00am Each Tuesday			1 Men's Conference See Brent if interested	2 CSC will be OPEN 9am-2pm Women's Bible Study 11:30-1 Revival Cafe
3 Back to School Bash 3-5pm Kiwanis Park	4 Council Meeting 6pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Lord's Supper Deacon & PWF Mtg 4PM QQ 5pm	11	12	13	14	15 CSC Food Distribution 9am-1pm	16 Yard Sale @ FBC for Bethesda House 7am-noon
17 QQ 5pm	18 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	19	20	21 COG to Cracker Barrel Leave FBC at 10:30am	22	23
24 QQ 5pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Fully Flood Floral 4pm QQ 5pm						

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

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Phone: 334-858-3234
www.fbcfloral.com
Email: fbcjoyce@gmail.com



**WHERE THINGS ARE HAPPENING
ONLY GOD CAN DO!**



FBC will be giving out notebook paper, pencil pouches, color pencils and germ-x. Come help hand out these goodies!



**EVERY SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM**

You Tube
LIVESTREAM

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FBCFloral>



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