

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

# THE BEACON

## Words from Pastor Chris

We are now a few weeks into our Fall Series, "Encourage One Another." Through this series we are looking at different biblical examples of encouragement. The reality is that we all need encouragement from time to time. We all go through seasons of discouragement. No one is immune to the hardship and struggle associated with living in this broken world. Thank God for the Church where we can go to be encouraged, where we can be surrounded by people who can encourage us and who we can encourage. I hope that you will continue to make it a priority to be here and grow in being an encourager.

I want to also update you on the progress of our Family Life Center. The committee that you approved has now met twice to discuss the process of eventually building a new facility to help us better serve our community and our church. Your committee has discussed where we might build this building, what this building might include, and how it can be designed to best carry out our mission as a church. The next step is to visit other local churches who have similar facilities to better understand what we might include in our own building. As part of our "Vision 28" initiative our goal is to see this building become a reality by 2028. Much must happen though to meet that goal. There is of course the hurdle of finances. We have no idea what this project will cost yet. God has blessed us with a great finance team that has already set in motion a plan to avoid financing a large portion of the cost. We must also remember that God is faithful. We are going to strive to be great stewards, but we must remember that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. While some may not recognize the need for such a facility, we must look to the future. We must move forward and plan for more growth and a more comprehensive ministry. This building will help us do that. Many have come before us and set us up for ministerial success, now it is our turn to set future generations of FBC Florala members up for ministerial success. I have challenged our committee to have a visible plan for this building by next Summer. Once this plan is established we can then think about cost. I want to ask you to really begin to pray earnestly for this project. Pray that it is not something that Satan will use to divide us. Pray that God would provide the finances. Pray for our committee to have great wisdom to make decisions.

Finally, I just want to remind you of our mission statement, as it is designed to encapsulate all that we do as a church. "Making disciples to live like Jesus to transform the world for Christ." We must ask ourselves if we are doing this individually, and if so, how? Our small group discipleship plan starting in January will help us be more intentional about this. So, plan now to get involved in one of these groups and simply say yes when you are invited to be a part of a group.

Blessings, Bro. Chris

OCTOBER 2025  
ISSUE 180



### 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  
6:15-7:15pm

### October Memory Verse

"It is the Lord who goes before you He will not leave  
you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV



## SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP

**WHEN:** Friday, December 12th & Saturday, December 13th

**WHERE:** Atlanta, Ga.

**WHAT:** Process Christmas Shoe Boxes

**INFORMATION:** We will leave at 7:00am on Friday morning and return Saturday evening. We will use the church van as our transportation.

**COST:** Hotel room and food.

\*Please pray about you and your family joining me and Missy. We have reserved 14 slots. Attendees must be 13 years old or older to work in the processing center. Please let Bro. Brent know if you are interested.



### Three opportunities to go on a mission trip right here at FBC FLORALA:

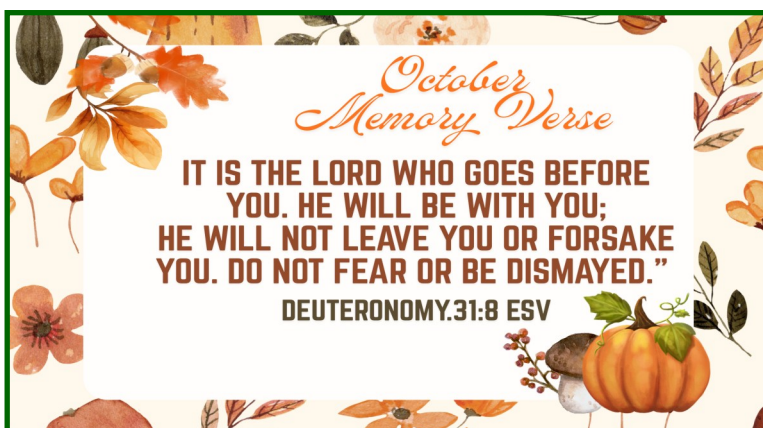
1) Please pray about you and your family joining me and Missy as we travel to Atlanta, GA, on December 12th & 13th to process shoeboxes at the OCC Atlanta processing center. There is something there for EVERYONE to do. It is one of the best short term mission trips I have ever been on. We will work Fri. from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Sat. from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. We have reserved 14 slots. Please let Bro. Brent know if you are interested.

2) 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). [See article on page 5](#) for a list of dates and times and please let me know if you'd be interested in helping me and Missy man the drop-offs.

3) PACK A SHOE BOX. It's never too early to begin buying supplies for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Back to School sales provide the perfect opportunity to support not only our local school children, but also children around the world. Visit Official Shoebox Gift Suggestions for specific items to place in a girl or boy box. These shoeboxes are shipped all over the world to children who need to hear the gospel. This is the perfect way to be on mission right here from Florala, AL. FBC, Florala packed 300+ last December. Let's make it our goal to beat that number in 2025.

· We want to be known as a church on mission—an Acts 1:8 church. Missions is not just an international field, but a local field as well. This is your opportunity to make an impact for the Kingdom.

BRO Brent Zessin, 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>

## TRI-CITIES CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

Our sales are \$8,791 so far this month. On Food Distribution Day in the month of Sept., we served 170 families, and handed out 6,635 pounds of food.



As we head into the holiday season, let's be mindful of the different ways we may be able to be a blessing to others.

1. When you buy groceries and there is a BOGO offer, keep one and give the 2nd to the CSC (as long as it is non-perishable).
2. Intentionally set aside a little bit of money each payday to give to the CSC or to purchase food for them to share with those in need.
3. Clean out your toys, books and other items then donate all that are still in good shape. One person's trash truly is another person's treasure. Make someone smile!

God Bless You All, Cindy Phillips

"THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'"  
~Matthew 25:40



## NEXTGEN UPDATE

It has been a productive 2 months of NextGen ministry at the First Baptist Church of Florala! We have had the opportunity to build relationships over the past few weeks that are going to be foundational to long-term discipleship here.



**First Baptist Students** have been walking through the book of John; taking an in-depth look at a gospel account that points us to the messiah. This week we are going to Geneva to join in a student night of worship. Maple Avenue Baptist Church is expecting around 200 students and multiple churches to be there worshipping Christ together. We will be led that night by Strength to Stand Worship.

We also took 2 teams to dodgeball tournament at Camp Victory and placed 2nd! It was a great day of fun, competition, and fellowship. Speaking of Camp Victory, we are planning a fall retreat at Camp Victory in November for students 7th-12th grade. The retreat will involve multiple different Florala area churches; around 40-50 students.

If you are interested in serving in our student ministry, talk to Bro Brad. He has been praying that God would raise up adult teachers and leaders to pour into students. One thing you can all do is pray for us. Pray for salvation and spiritual maturity for our students!



**First Baptist Kids** is busy implementing changes to more effectively teach Christ to our children 6th grade and below. We are starting our new Wednesday night material TeamKID October 1st! Pray for our kids, teachers, and leaders who are beginning this new adventure. We are adding new classes and teachers, new material, and soon a new theme for the education building.

**THE COVE** is a place where all NextGen ministry will take place.

Where kids and students can learn about Christ in a building completely dedicated for them; where they'll be SAFE IN CHRIST, SECURE IN HIS WORD! First Baptist Kids will start checking in at a new check in station and accounted for while they are in The Cove.



Children's ministry cannot be done without faithful adults who teach and care for our kids! Thank you to every one of you who accept the call to love our kids and show them the love of Christ.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sept 24: Night of Worship for Students, Geneva

Sept 25: Bonfire, FHS Homecoming

Sept 26: FHS Homecoming Breakfast

Oct 1: TeamKID Launch

Oct. 26: Fall Festival @ FBC

Nov 21-23: Fall Retreat @ Camp Victory

Blessings, Bro. Brad



*First Baptist Students with 2nd place trophy!*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

What is man's greatest need? What is it?

Is it education? Is it in the realm of economics? Is it social reform? Is it healing? What is man's greatest need? Jesus Christ did not come primarily as an educator. He didn't come as a social reformer. Though he healed, he did not come primarily as a healer. The Bible tells us in Luke chapter 19 and verse 10 this, Jesus Christ is speaking, and he said, the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost. Man's greatest need is salvation. Man needs to be saved.

The BIBLE also tell us in Luke 4:42-43, that JESUS' purpose was to preach the gospel. In now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Sunday School should be made up of individuals who have the same clear purpose and unwavering standard as that of JESUS. After all we are Ambassadors for JESUS CHRIST.

In your Sunday School Class, please make the month of October a month that we focus on reaching the lost in our community. Have a sense of URGENCY to tell people the GOOD NEWS that JESUS CHRIST is the ONE AND ONLY TRUE SAVIOR. Let's make it a point of urgency add to that number. The BIBLE states that no man knows the hour in which the SON of Man will return.

LIVE EACH & EVERY DAY AS IF JESUS CHRIST DIED THIS MORNING, WAS BURIED THIS AFTERNOON, AND IS RETURNING TO GET HIS CHURCH FIRST THING IN THE MORNING! ADRIAN ROGERS

Bro BRENT, PROVERBS 3: 5-6

### **FBC FLORALA Serves as an official DROP-OFF CENTER for Shoeboxes**

We will be open on the following days to receive boxes:

- \*Monday, Nov. 17th - 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- \*Tuesday, Nov. 18th - 8:30 am - 10:30 am
- \*Wednesday, Nov. 19th - 4:00 pm-6:00pm
- \*Thursday, Nov. 20th -12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- \*Friday, Nov. 21st -7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- \*Saturday, Nov. 22nd - 8:00 am- 10:00 am
- \*Sunday, Nov. 23rd - 12:30 pm- 2:30 pm
- \*Monday, Nov. 24th - 8:00 am-10:00 am

\*Please let me know if you'd be interested in helping me and Missy man the drop-offs.

Bro. Brent

On our WEBSITE, there is a BULLETIN page. I have begun posting the Sermon Notes on there as well. So, if you miss church for any reason, you can go there to print the notes and watch the service online (which is also on our website). It's not as good as attending in person, but it is definitely better than missing the entire message. *Check it out!*

### **ACTS1:8 Reminder**

Bro. Chris asked us to set aside and personally pledge a monthly amount outside of your regular tithes and offerings to give toward the different mission initiatives of the church. The current plan is to divide this fund in 6 ways. 35% of all money given to Acts 1:8 will go to the Annie Armstrong Offering and 35% will go to Lottie Moon. We will give 10% to Send Relief Network, 10% will be designated as discretionary, which can be used for mission trips, or unexpected missional opportunities that arise, 5% will be sent to Camp Victory, and the last 5% will go to support Wycliffe Bible Translators.

**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

**MENS MINISTRY****WHEN:** SUNDAY, October 19, 2025**TEE TIME:** 2:00-3:00**WHERE:** BLACKWATER GOLF COURSE (Old Foxwood) in Crestview**COST:** \$45.00 / 18 Holes, Cart & Range Balls**SCHEDULE:** 1:00-2:00 Check-In/Hit Range Balls/Warm-Up**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN:** 11:30-1:00.**FORMAT:** Best Ball / Teams of Four**NOTE YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND FBC FLORALA IN ORDER TO PLAY****SEE BRO. BRENT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED***Thank You October Volunteers*

Oct. 5	Flowers - Darrell & Jeanie Foley Greeters - Bobby & Cindy Phillips Nursery - Dustin & Ashley Geoghagan Children Church - Paigton & Connor
Oct. 12	Flowers - Dale & Alicia Cole Greeters - John & Tabitha Coverstone Nursery - Rhonda & Trevor Varnum Children Church - Brandon & Tristan Wehrly
Oct. 19	Flowers - John & Tabitha Coverstone Greeters - Darrell & Jeanie Foley Nursery - Cindy Phillips, McKenzie Davis Children Church - Kaleb & Camryn Casey
Oct. 26	Flowers - Charles & Linda Russell Greeters - Rod & Michele Williams Nursery - Jeff & Jennifer Bradley, Chloe Russell Children Church - Lynn Pomas, Brittany Klawitter

**LADIES MINISTRY**

On October 7th, thirty-six of our ladies will be traveling to Babbie Baptist Church to attend the Lisa Harper--Seasons of the Heart night of worship. Lisa is a nationally known Christian author, bible educator, and speaker, and we are so thrilled about attending this event. Worshipping together through a message or music is a wonderful way for us to grow closer together as women of God.

We have recently set up a GroupMe text message group specifically for our ladies and ladies events. A few messages have already been sent out with info on the above Lisa Harper event. If you did not receive a message and would like to be included in this text GroupMe, please contact Sheila Anderson or the church office to be added. We want all of our ladies to be included.

Have a blessed October,  
Sheila Anderson, Ladies Ministry

**BUDGET  
REQUEST  
SHEETS  
ARE BEING  
HANDED OUT  
TO LEADERS  
THIS WEEK.  
PLEASE PLAN  
TO FILL OUT  
AND RETURN  
THEM TO THE  
FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
ASAP.**

**PRAYERS WITH FEET**

This month we would like to thank each of you who have contributed financially to our PWF fund over the past several years. We want you to know that we continue to try to be good stewards of these donations to help those in need.

This past month, PWF was blessed to offer financial assistance to two families in their battle with cancer. This terrible disease hits so many families in our community. It is through the donations of our church members and friends that we have the funds to help others.

While nothing can take the place of prayer, assistance with finances can definitely help make the burden easier for those in need.

Thank you!  
Sheila Anderson

# October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



**Men**  
Meet @ FBC  
for  
Prayer Time  
**8:00am**  
Each Tuesday

1

**DINNER**  
**MENU**

BBQ Sandwich,  
Baked Beans,  
Chips, Tea

2

3

4

5

6

**Council  
Meeting  
6pm**

7

8

**DINNER**  
**MENU**

Taco Salad,  
Tea

9

10

11

**Fall Paint  
Party 2pm  
Hosted by  
Soul Sisters**

12

**Lord's  
Supper**

**Deacon &  
PWF Mtg  
4PM**

13

14

15

**DINNER**  
**MENU**

Grits, Eggs,  
Biscuits, Gravy,  
Tea

16

17

**CSC  
Food  
Distribution  
9am-1pm**

18

19

**Men's Golf  
Outing  
2-3pm**

20

**Beacon  
Articles  
Due  
TODAY**

21

22

**DINNER**  
**MENU**

Chicken  
Fingers, Green  
Beans, Mac-N-  
Cheese, Tea

23

**COG to  
Sightler's in  
Andalusia  
Leave FBC  
at 10:30am**

24

25

26

**Fall  
Festival  
5-7pm**

27

28

29

**DINNER**  
**MENU**

Pizza, Tea

30

31



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**PASTOR:**  
**BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT**

23593 Fifth Avenue  
Floral, AL 36442

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



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



**EVERY SUNDAY  
AT 10:00 AM**

**You Tube**  
**LIVESTREAM**

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



Scan this QR Code  
to Visit Our  
Website

**FBC FLORAL**

**HOME COMING**

*Service*

**OCTOBER 5, 2025**

**10 AM - 12 PM**  
23593 FIFTH AVENUE  
FLORAL, AL 36442

**-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL-**

*Guest  
Speaker*



**BRO. BILL PRITCHETT**

**FEATURING MUSIC BY FBC PRAISE TEAM**

**FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCH WILL FOLLOW**

**No SS on this day! Bring food to share  
for Fellowship Lunch after the Service.**