

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

THE BEACON

Encouraging Words from Pastor Chris

We celebrate all that God has done in 2025. We baptized 4 people. Through Fully Flood Florala we've knocked on over 75 doors and had multiple gospel conversations. Through Connect the Continents over 100 people made professions of faith in Uganda. You gave a record number of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We have established a Family Life Center project committee to begin to plan for our future Family Life Center. Our average attendance is on track to increase by 10 people from last year. We have hired another full-time staff member in Bro. Brad that has brought great momentum to our student ministries. Giving has officially exceeded our budgetary needs. While we certainly rejoice and praise God for these blessings, let us not be content. There is more progress to be made. 2026 is going to be a pivotal year in seeing Vision 28 become a reality and for us to be the Great Commission minded church that we need to be.

There are tremendous things coming in 2026 that I believe are going to help our church take the next step. For that to happen though, we all need to be fully invested. The time is now. Souls are at stake. Our community is riddled with the brokenness of sin. People are burdened and we have the answer in Jesus. Half-Hearted, half-focused, half-engaged involvement is not enough to minister to these burdens, specifically the burden of lostness. So, ask yourself if you are as committed to the Lord, His Word, His Church, and to the ministry of the church as much as you could be? How can you get more engaged? How can you be more faithful? What needs to happen for you to grow closer with the Lord on your end? How can you be a part of seeing a greater gospel impact in 2026?

In 2026 we are going to launch a new discipleship strategy that will promote Bible engagement, prayer, evangelism, and accountability to these disciplines. The impact that this can have on you spiritually is incalculable. You will learn how to be a stronger disciple and to make disciples through engaging in one of these groups. We are going to partner with a church plant in Connecticut through NAMB. This will open doors to serve in the mission field in a variety of ways. We are going to begin a new visitor engagement ministry where we look to connect better with those who visit our church and assimilate them into our church family. We plan to begin to establish our after-school program next Fall. We will begin a Graduates and Professionals (G.A.P) ministry for our young adults. Our goal is to have a conceptual design for a Family Life Center by the end of the year. We are going to be busy about God's business, and we want to invite you to be apart of that. Let's get ready for what God is ready to do in 2026.

Blessings, Bro. Chris

Wishing a very Merry Christmas from our family to yours! May God Bless You!

JANUARY 2026

ISSUE 183



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



PRAISE THE LORD! For the **560** Christmas shoe boxes that you and our church gave to the LORD this year.

It was without a doubt an all-time high.

Last year we gave just under 400 boxes, the previous 5 years we averaged around 130 boxes.

THANKS FOR GIVING TO THE LORD!

Millions of children around the world are being impacted by the simple shoebox gift you/our church gave. One box can touch not only just the child, but the whole family. THANK YOU, and GOD BLESS YOU

FRANKLIN GRAHAM

FBC FLORALA DROP-OFF CENTER

We had 914 boxes collected during the week: Smyrna Baptist Church (202 boxes), Lockhart Baptist Church (69 boxes), Liberty Hill Assembly of GOD (20 boxes), Florala First Presbyterian Church (62 boxes), and FBC Florala (560 boxes) dropped off in the seven days we were open. THANKS to the 22 volunteers that worked during the week and half of our church that help get our 560 boxes from the worship center steps down to the packing station. Special thanks goes out to Charles Russell for the uses of his trailer that was used to transport the 58 cartons full of boxes to Ino Baptist Church, to Darrell and Jeanie for the use of their truck to pull the trailer, and to Troy and Colton for going to extra mile in setting up.

PRAISE THE LORD,

BRO BRENT, PROVERBS 3:5-6



RECAP ~ 2025 Operation Christmas Child Mission Trip ~ Fri., Dec. 12th & Sat., Dec. 13th. ~ Atlanta, Ga.

On Friday, December 12th, the volunteers at the Atlanta Processing Center packed over 80,000 Christmas shoeboxes. On Saturday, December 13th, the volunteers at the Atlanta Processing Center packed just under 90,000 Christmas shoeboxes. From Wednesday, November 26, through Saturday December 13th, the volunteers at the Atlanta Processing Center packed over 1,700,000 Christmas Shoe Boxes.

Attending from FBC, Florala: Darrell and Jeanie Foley, Chris and Tracy Vaughn, John and Tabitha Coverstone, Judy McCord, Donna Milner, and Brent and Missy Zessin.

THANKS, FBC FLORALA FOR GIVING TO THE LORD and LETTING US ATTEND A TRUE BLESSING OF GOD!

NEXTGEN PASTOR UPDATES

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I really believe that to be true. **There are so many opportunities to begin gospel conversations during the Christmas season.** One opportunity we have is providing for families in need during holiday seasons! Giving a needed gift is a great way to share about the gift God gave us in Jesus Christ. This time is also a great time to talk to our families about Christ. I would challenge you over the next few weeks to take the time to have some gospel conversations in your home.

As you may know, our children took up over \$2,600 during VBS last year. That offering will help provide gifts for 40 kids this Christmas through the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship. Pray for the families that receive these gifts and their incarcerated family members. Pray that they would be led to Christ by the generosity of the local church.

****Special thank you everyone that helped wrap gifts after our lunch Sunday!**

First Baptist Students will carry a lot of momentum into 2026 from all that God has done this year. Be in prayer for our D-NOW weekend at United Youth Conference in Andalusia. Josh Meadows will be speaking and worship being led by *The Museum*. If you are interested in possibly being a host home for 4-5 students, let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for the past 6 months. Our family hit the ground running with so many welcoming arms making us feel at home! Maria and I knew that transitioning to a new faith family in a different community would not be easy! However, you all loved us so much that this change was everything we hoped it would be. I'm looking forward to 2026 and many, many, years to come!

Upcoming Important Dates:

December 21 First Baptist Kids are going to see "David" at Clark Cinemas, Enterprise; Leave FBC @1:30, Return @6:30

January 23-25 United Youth Conference (D-NOW), Andalusia High School, 7th-12th grade. Sign up by Jan 4!

Merry Christmas!
Bro. Brad & Family

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

Come, let's celebrate God's goodness in 2025 and talk about what is coming in 2026. Bro. Chris will share details from the past year and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions regarding 2026 and the way additional Vision 2028 plans are underway.

Jan. 11th @ 6pm - Don't miss it!



Tithe.ly

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

TRI-CITIES CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

The food giveaway for the month of November was on the 21st - the Friday before Thanksgiving! We wanted to do what we could to make it extra special. A turkey breast was given and 1st Assembly gave additional items to make a good holiday meal.



We gave food to 220 families, for a total of 11,825 pounds of food. We had \$6,955 in sales for last month and that is how we do what we do! Those sales create the funds that enable CBA to purchase the food that we are honored to give out to those who need a hand up.

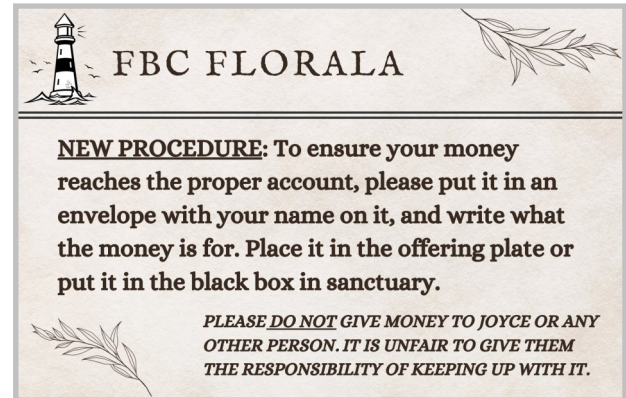
Normal days open are Wed-Fri. Our store will be **CLOSED** Christmas week as well as Dec 31, Jan. 1,2,7,8,9 . We will **REOPEN** on **Jan. 14th** with a clean store, fully restocked with new inventory that you will want to see (and purchase).

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to our loving Father for sending His son Jesus to be born, and to save us from our sins.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is The Messiah, The Lord" Luke 2:11



Cindy Phillips



CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR CHRIS

Our very own Pastor Chris Davenport walked across the stage at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Fri., Dec. 12th to receive his Master's in Pastoral Ministry. Everyone at FBC is super proud of him!

Bro. Chris is already registered and ready to continue in the Spring to work toward the next level of degree, a Master of Arts in Divinity. His diligence, dedication and devotion to continuing to learn more so he can pour into us does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for all that you do as you lead us to be better followers of Jesus Christ! We also want to say how much we love and appreciate your precious family who stood behind you through this part of your journey and will continue to do so as you go forward!!



Your Flock

FBC Congregation

★ So Very ★
PREUD!
of you!

VOLUNTEER ROTATION LIST

Date	Little Lights (Birth-2 yrs)	Little Lambs (2-3 yrs)	Children Worship	Flowers
4-Jan	Missy Z.	Cindy P./Mckenzie D.	Lynn P./Brittany K.	Richard & Debbie R.
11-Jan	Buddy and Bridget N.	Cristalin and Casidy N.	Katy D./Kim G.	Rose Haile
18-Jan	Lewis and Lori T.	Kim T/Addy C.	Connor V./Paiyton P.	Wade & Joyce F.
25-Jan	Layce A.	Dustin and Ashley G.	Brandon and Tristan W.	Connor & Paiyton V.

Thank You...

Wednesday Night Teachers:	
7-Jan	Connie H./Kim T.
14-Jan	Katy D./Alecia C.
21-Jan	Bridget N./Teasha D.
28-Jan	Connie H./Kim T.

We are always so grateful for all volunteers. Bro. Brad has worked diligently to get our children's department running smoothly and well-manned, but there are other areas in our church that could use assistance as well.

Maybe you could volunteer in the balcony to help with the computer or camera OR you could help by riding the van/bus on Wednesday night pickup or return home. Let us know!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christmas -- it's the largest celebration around the world each year. Other holidays get a single day, but CHRISTMAS is emphasized for an entire month, one twelfth of every year. If you stop to think about it, it is astounding that the simple, unassuming birth of a peasant boy born two thousand years ago in the Middle East has caused such a commotion. You may never realize that every time you check your calendar or refer to a date or write one down, you are using JESUS CHRIST as your reference point. Even your birthday is dated by HIS birthday.

If you'll slow down to a few minutes, and pause to consider the purpose of Christmas, you can receive and enjoy the best CHRISTMAS gift you'll ever be given. It is GOD'S CHRISTMAS gift to you.

GOD'S CHRISTMAS gift to you has three qualities that make it unique. First, it is the most expensive gift you'll ever receive. It's priceless, JESUS paid for it with his life. Second, it's the only gift you'll receive that will last forever. Finally, it is an extremely practical gift. It is one you'll use every day for the rest of your life.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the ZESSINS

Luke 2:11



FREE FAMILY EVENT

INO BAPTIST CHURCH

WILD GAME BANQUET

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

MEAL STARTING AT 5:30PM

MUSIC FROM Made For More starting at 5:45pm

SPEAKER AT 7pm

GRANGER SMITH

Author.
Speaker.
Musician.
Husband.
Father.

6157 HWY 134
KINSTON, AL 36453
334-565-3970

Prize giveaways after the speaker



This jolly group went to the Florala Health & Rehab to sing Christmas Carols, spread joy and pass out small gifts from our ladies ministries here at FBC.

What a pleasure and an honor to walk the halls, talking to the residents and employees alike, to pass out gifts, offer words of encouragement and to pray with many. We were so blessed!!

January 2026



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	All Men Invited to Meet @ FBC for Prayer Time 8:00am Each Tuesday			1	2	3
4	5	6	7 DINNER MENU Chicken Fingers, Green Beans, Mac-N- Cheese	8	9	10
11 Deacon Mtg. 5pm State of the Church Address 6pm	12	13	14 DINNER MENU Pancakes & Sausage	15	16 CSC Food Distribution 9am-1pm	17
18 FREE Photos taken <u>TODAY</u> for Online Directory	19 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	20	21 DINNER MENU Hamburger Steaks, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans	22 COG to Laurel Hill Grill Leave FBC @ 10:45am	23	24
25 FREE Photos taken <u>TODAY</u> for Online Directory	26	27	28 DINNER MENU Hot Dogs, Sausage Dogs, Chips	29	30	31

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR:
BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

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



FINANCE AND OFFICE REQUESTS

As we look to 2026 and how we can do a better job of streamlining our processes, we ask that you not give cash or checks to any individual. Please place your money in an envelope, write your name on it and the fund it should go to, then place it in the offering plate, or put it in the black box on the back wall of the sanctuary. This will ensure it is properly deposited and doesn't give anyone else the liability of keeping up with it.

New giving envelope boxes will be in your Sunday School rooms before the end of the year. Please understand that we need you to use them. If you don't use your envelope, our ladies who make the deposit weekly, have to create an envelope for you, and we keep it for the correct length of time required by the state. If you don't receive a box of envelopes and wish to have one, please contact me in the office. I'll be more than happy to provide one to you.

Many Blessings to all of you in 2026!
Finance Committee & Joyce Farmer



**EVERY SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM**

You Tube
LIVESTREAM

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



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