

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

# THE BEACON

MARCH 2026  
ISSUE 185

## Encouraging Words from Pastor Chris

Let's celebrate for a moment. While we have baptized two new believers already this year, we currently have four more scheduled and another person who has reached out to discuss baptism. This means that by March 1 we will have already exceeded 2025's baptism numbers. Praise the Lord! However, the job is not finished. Our prayer is now that we would disciple these new Christians well as this is a major point of emphasis for our church right now.

While we often refer to ourselves as Christians, I think it is better to classify ourselves as followers of Christ or disciples. This terminology gives us a greater specificity to who we truly are. When we examine Scripture, we find that the word "Christian" is only used three times while the word "disciple," which means apprentice, student, or follower, appears at least 230 times. While the words "Christian" and "disciple" should be synonymous, we see that very often they are not. Many people will label themselves as a "Christian," yet the posture and practice of their lives indicates that they are not actively following Jesus. The question we need to consider is if we could truly be considered a follower or an apprentice of Jesus? Are we actively working to know him more, to walk as he walked, and to submit to his teaching? I can't encourage you enough to show up each Sunday as we walk through the series "Identity: The Marks of a Disciple." The intent behind this series is for us to see clearly what being an apprentice of Jesus is all about. We have seen some specific things we are called to be faithful to such as the Scripture and the local church, but as we dig deeper, we will also see what it looks like to be a bold witness, a Christ-like servant, and to be fully accountable to other followers of Christ. My prayer is that through this series we all will become more equipped disciple makers.

Wednesday nights have also been very exciting lately. We have been working through how to do the inductive Bible study method, which is helping us learn how to dig into God's word more deeply. We are also implementing a more intentional prayer strategy that I believe will help us all grow in our personal prayer lives. If you will commit to join us faithfully, we truly believe that you will grow as a disciple and in turn grow as a disciple maker. This growth though will be very limited if your involvement is limited. I want to challenge you to prioritize consistent attendance and focused engagement when you are here and let's see what God will do.

Blessings,  
Bro. Chris



*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

## Disciples Who Make Disciples

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### PRAISE THE LORD FOR ALL OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS!

#### Nursery – Pre-K

Lewis & Lori Thorn, Missy Zessin, Angie Fortune, & Connie Holden

#### K – 3rd Grade

Carlton & Vanessa Dukes, Connor & Paiyton Varnum

#### Pre-Teens 4 - 6 Grade

Cathy Johnson & Deb Goolsby

#### 7th - 12th Grade

Brad & Maria Elmore

#### Young Adults

Jeremy & Laura Ashley Radney

Greg Taylor & Jonathan Majors

#### Adults

Jeff Bradley & Donald Varnum

Sara Goolsby

Wade Farmer & Darrell Folley

Donna Milner

SUNDAY SCHOOL Director Brent Zessin

### PRAY AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THESE PEOPLE BY ATTENDING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

PROVERBS 3: 5-6, BRO BRENT

## NURSING HOME MINISTRY

**WHERE:** Floral Health & Rehab

**WHAT:** Bible Study, Singing, Room Visits

**WHEN:** Every Tuesday 9:45-11:00am

**WHO:** If you are interested in helping with this ministry, see Bro. Brent Zessin

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### ARE YOU PASSING THE TORCH?

As Christians, we are called to run a race that lasts a lifetime. The Christian life is not a sprint; it is a marathon. It's a journey that requires endurance, discipline, and a steadfast focus on our ultimate goal: **eternal life with God**.

But have you ever stopped to think about the purpose of this race? Why are we running it, and what is the finish line?

The truth is, the purpose of the race is to become more like **Christ**. It's a journey of transformation that begins the moment we accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Running the race requires us to trust in God's plan for our lives and to seek His guidance every step of the way.

As we walk our path of faith, we should often think about the importance of passing our torch to the next generation.

Sharing our faith is more than just telling stories; it's about embodying our beliefs (THAT JESUS IS LORD) and showing others the way to embrace their own journeys.

### THINGS WE CAN DO TO FINISH STRONG!

1. **Pray for Younger Believers.**
2. **Model Holy Living**
3. **Create Opportunities for Fellowship**
4. **Teach Biblical Knowledge**

**In conclusion**, your role as a Christian senior in mentoring the younger generation is both **a privilege** and a **responsibility**. You can make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of younger believers. Mentorship is **NOT** a one-time event, but an ongoing process of walking alongside people in their spiritual journeys. It requires patience, commitment, and a deep love for God and others. In a world that is constantly changing, your wisdom, experience, and faith are valuable. By stepping into the role of mentor, you can not only strengthen the younger generation but also find renewed purpose and joy in seeing God's work continue through the lives you touch.

### REMEMBER, NO RETREAT!

PROVERBS 3:5-6

BRO BRENT



## NEXTGEN PASTOR UPDATES

It's hard to contain the excitement for all the things God is doing in our student ministry! Our Wednesday night attendance and Sunday School attendance are both growing. Numerical growth isn't always, necessarily, healthy growth but along with spiritual growth it's a great thing! Two students are getting baptized in March. Four of our upper-class guys are in a D-group and inviting their friends at school to come to church. We also have a lot more interest in "Generate" summer camp that I anticipated. Our student reservations are full for summer camp except for one spot!

There are some things you can add to your prayer list for our student ministry:

- ◆ Wisdom and organization as student ministry grows.
- ◆ Student leadership and mentors.
- ◆ Adult leaders and teachers who feel called to work with teenagers.

First Baptist Kids has so many moving parts because of how faithful our parents are to have their children at church! I'm very encouraged by the faithfulness of attendance by our young families. It's never the role of pastors/ministers to replace the parents as primary disciple makers, but to support parents discipling their own kids. That is exactly what we're seeing develop in our kid's ministry. Keep at it parents, you're doing a great job!

The renovations to "The Cove" have begun. Contractors are removing the carpet on the second and third floor and replacing it with LVP. We are also repainting the walls and doors on those floors. Eric Broadway has been instrumental in organizing and supporting the remodel; thank you Eric! As always continue to pray for our teachers and committee as they faithfully teach, plan, and organize ministry to our kids and families!

### Upcoming Schedule:

- ◆ March 15 - Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser after Worship
- ◆ March 28 - Pennsylvania & Southern Railroad (Mossy Head) K-6<sup>th</sup> grade
- ◆ March 29 - Risen and Ready Easter Celebration!
- ◆ May 31-June 4 - VBS PreK-Adult Classes (Youth Included)
- ◆ June 27-July1- Generate Student Camp
- ◆ July 27-July 30 - Week9 Kids Camp

NextGen Pastor, Bro. Brad



# 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

How wonderful it is to have these young guys and gals volunteer to help us out! This first group was attending a weekend youth retreat "D-NOW" and used some of their free time to work in our store, bagging food for our upcoming food giveaway. Bro. Brad (FBC) is busy leading the youth into the community where they are showing the love of Jesus to all they meet.



And this second group is a part of the PAWS program at FHS. This program sends youth to us often and they are always right on time for what we need!



Cindy Phillips

## FBC LADIES MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry Team met on Wednesday, February 4th to discuss what our combined ministry should look like going forward. Thankfully, Bro. Chris was able to outline what he hoped to see from our group- a gospel presence in all events, unified vision for community outreach, and a more encompassing women's fellowship (Bible study and activities).

A common theme from each member of the Women's Ministry team was how to make our time together pleasing to the Lord and accessible for every woman in our church.

While no formal plans were outlined, the team consisting of Sheila Anderson, Tabitha Coverstone, Jennifer Bradley, Katy Davenport, Lisa McNeill, Jeanie Foley and Missy Zessin, left the meeting tasked with praying over what our meetings should look like and what kinds of events we could hold that would accomplish our church's vision and mission.

We look forward to hosting a kickoff event in late spring and encourage all ladies of FBC, Florala to stay tuned. We can only succeed when we all work together for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And please, if you are reading this and want to share ideas/thoughts for our revamped presence, please see one of those ministry team members above. We are all burdened with wanting our women to feel welcome and loved in all we do.



Please help us take care of God's House. It's really simple, if we all follow the same rules!

## HOUSE RULES

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it.
4. If you break it, fix it.
5. If you can't fix it, call someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you use it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it.

VBS is **SAVE**  
coming! **The**  
**DATE**



## FBC MENS MINISTRY

Men of FBC FLORALA, we have the opportunity to attend one or both of two Men’s Conferences scheduled in the month of February.

#1 The **INO Baptist Church Wild Game Banquet** is set for Friday, **February 20, 2026**. The conference is FREE. Doors open at 5 with the meal starting at 5:30. Service starts at 7. Granger Smith will be the speaker. We will take the church bus or van from church leaving at 4pm.

#2 **Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brantley, Al. ONE NIGHT ONE PURPOSE MAN CHURCH.** Friday, **February 27, 2026**. The conference is FREE. Doors open at 5; meal served from 5-6; service at starts 6. Mark Perry will be the speaker.

**MAKE PLANS TO GO AND INVITE A FRIEND!**

Bro. Brent

Proverbs 3:5-6



**HELP ME CREATE A KEY DATABASE  
ONLY ABOUT 3 PEOPLE RESPONDED...DID YOU?**

**If you have keys to our buildings, please contact Joyce so she can create a database for our records. If you no longer need your keys, please simply return them. Thank you!**

## VOLUNTEER ROTATION LIST

Date	Little Lights (Birth-2 yrs)	Little Lambs (2-3 yrs)	Children Worship	Flowers
<b>1-Mar</b>	Lewis & Lori Thorn	Kim T., Addy C.	Lynn P.	Carlton & Vanessa D.
<b>8-Mar</b>	Layce A., Brad & Maria E.	Dustin & Ashley G.	Katy D., Kim G.	Chris & Katy D.
<b>15-Mar</b>	Rhonda V.	Stephen & Lora B.	Connor & Paiyton V.	Archie & Lisa M.
<b>22-Mar</b>	Connie H., Brinlee E.	Brad & Maria E.	Kaleb & Camryn C.	Eric & Patty B.
<b>29-Mar</b>	Jennifer B., Cassidy B.	Chloe R., Graci V.	Lynn P.	Tom & Sandy H.

Wednesday Night Teachers:	
<b>4-Mar</b>	Bridget N., Teahsa D.
<b>11-Mar</b>	Connie H., Kim T.
<b>18-Mar</b>	Katy D., Alecia C.
<b>25-Mar</b>	Bridget N., Teahsa D.

**GREETERS:**

- Mar. 1 - Brent & Missy L., Rod & Michele W.
- Mar. 8 - Myron & Sheila A., Terri McLaney, Lisa McNeill
- Mar. 15 - Jason & Brittany Klawitter, Lynn P., Cathy J.
- Mar. 22 - John & Tabitha C., Brent & Missy L.
- Mar. 29 - Darrell & Jeanie F., Jennifer B., Jean L.

**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

RICHARD REEVES (CH)

GREG TAYLOR



Mark Your Calendar! Let's Go Eat Together! Thursday, March 26th, we will leave FBC at 10:30am and ride the church bus to Plateful Buffet in DeFuniak for lunch. If you can let us know in advance, we appreciate it. Contact Brent or Joyce.



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# March 2026

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1 Discover FBC Luncheon	2	3 Men's Prayer Time 8:00am Each Tuesday	4 <u>DINNER MENU</u> Soup	5	6	7
8 DST Begins! Spring Forward! Deacon Mtg. 4pm	9	10	11 <u>DINNER MENU</u> Hot Dogs, Sausage Dogs & Chips	12 Senior Adult Bible Study & Brunch 10am in the Fellowship Hall	13	14
15 Spaghetti Lunch Youth Fundraiser	16	17	18 <u>DINNER MENU</u> Grits & Eggs with Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy	19	20 CSC Food Distribution 9am-1pm	21
22	23 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	24	25 <u>DINNER MENU</u> Spaghetti, Salad & Bread	26 COG to Plateful Buffet in DFS. Leave FBC @ 10:30m	27	28 Kids Outing to ride the trains in Mossy Head 10am-2pm
29 Easter Egg Hunt after Worship "Risen & Ready"	30	31				

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

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Email: fbcjoyce@gmail.com



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

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A poster for an Easter Sunrise Service. The background is a scenic view of a wooden pier extending into a lake at sunrise. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. Text is overlaid on the image.

*Easter Sunrise Service*  
R.J. EVANS BLDG  
AMPHITHEATER  
.....  
**April 5th @ 7am**  
EVERYONE  
INVITED  
BREAKFAST  
FOLLOWS  
SERVICE

*Everyone is Invited! Make Plans to Join us!*



**EVERY SUNDAY  
AT 10:00 AM**



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



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