

THE BEACON

Encouraging Words from Pastor Chris

MAY 2026
ISSUE 187

We are now halfway through our "Identity: The Marks of a Disciple Series." This series is outlining four key distinguishing attributes of a disciple of Jesus. These four attributes make up what we would consider a dream disciple. Just as a reminder, these attributes create the acronym FBCF and they are *Faithful Follower*, *Bold Witness*, *Christ-Like Servant*, and *Fully Accountable*. We believe that we can mostly sum up who a biblical follower of Jesus ought to be with these four categories. The reality is that we should always be growing in these areas, which is why D-Groups are so vital for people of all ages and stages of life and spiritual maturity.

To recap, we have seen that a faithful follower of Jesus is faithful to read, study, and live out God's Word. A faithful follower is faithful to the church through assembling together to feed on the Word, to live in community with like-minded people, to worship Jesus, and to pray. We are called to be faithful to the preservation of the unity and gospel influence of the church. A faithful follower of Jesus is faithful to strive to live in holiness. We have been set apart by Jesus and should therefore live set apart. As faithful followers we should be faithful to good stewardship of our resources, our relationships, and our gifting that God has given us. Finally, we saw that faithful followers are committed to follow Jesus' example of gentleness and lowliness.

When it comes to being a bold witness, a disciple of Jesus ought to also live evangelistically which requires the power of the Holy Spirit, that we access through prayer. Through the empowering of the Holy Spirit a bold witness is someone who will speak up for Jesus when others won't through uncertainty, inconvenience, and even fear. A bold witness does not allow the cost of evangelism to prevent them from being faithful to sharing the gospel. We should be motivated to be bold witnesses because Jesus has entrusted us despite our flaws, by his grace, and with great expectation.

When we think about being a faithful follower and a bold witness, we should ask ourselves if we are growing in these areas. Are you growing? If not, why not? What needs to happen in your life for you to follow Jesus more faithfully? What do you need to do to become more faithful to evangelism? We are all a work in progress, and we will never reach a full level of sanctification in this life. I want to encourage you though to commit to be faithful to growing in Christ which you can do by being faithful to a discipleship group and its disciplines.

Faithful Follower
Bold Witness
Christlike Servant
Fully Accountable

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONNECT THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

WHY:

We all need to foster deeper relationships with one another as the BODY of CHRIST.



WHAT:

To connect with each other in a meaningful way as a Sunday School class.

WHEN AND HOW:

Sometime in the months of May or June, as a Sunday School class, have a gathering outside of regular church activities and invite at least one prospective member.

TRUST IN THE LORD!
BRO BRENT, Proverb 3:5-6

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

This month at COFFEE and CHRIST twenty-three of us took a closer look at Exodus 7:7 where Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. We discussed that a GODLY saint that is devoted to the KINGDOM work-agenda in the senior years can be the most fruitful. The question was asked: are you passing the torch?

Our guest speaker was Michelle Jones from the Florida Health and Rehab. She discussed the ins and outs of aging and needing assistive care.

WE WILL NOT MEET next month on Thursday, May 7, for Coffee & Christ, but we will attend the Covington Baptists 19th Annual Senior Adult Revival Day at Oakey Ridge Baptist Church on TUESDAY, MAY 5th. The guest evangelist will be Jerry Lowery and the music will be performed by New Ground. The service begins at 10:00 am and lunch will be served.

We will leave FBC, Florida at 9:15 and take our bus. Please let me know if you are planning to attend. We must let the Covington Baptist office how many plan to attend by April 26th.

Please save this date and join us for COFFEE and CHRIST next time.

TRUST IN THE LORD
BRO BRENT
Proverbs 3:5-6

19TH ANNUAL
SENIOR ADULT REVIVAL DAY
Oakey Ridge Baptist Church
Guest Evangelist: Bro. Jerry Lowery
Worship Led by:
New Ground

Tuesday, May 5th 10:00am with lunch to follow



What a great day of worship! Make plans to attend. We will take the bus. Lunch is included, so we have to know in advance so that we can RSVP. See Brent to sign up!

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 5TH



NEXTGEN PASTOR NEWS

We're fast approaching another summer season at FBC; that means VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! VBS is arguably one of the largest outreach opportunities most churches have each year. It is without a doubt one of the greatest opportunities for you to invite your coworkers, friends, and family members with children to our church. There is a class for 3-year-olds through adults! They'll be taught biblical truths through class, arts/crafts, and recreation. Don't forget to pre-register by going to our website or FaceBook page and click the link!

This year's theme is "Illumination Station, Shining a Light on who Jesus Really Is." We can always use more people who are willing to serve. If you haven't signed up, but God's laid it on your heart to help during VBS, see Bro. Brad or someone on the children's committee and we'll try to find you a place. Even if you don't find a place to serve each night, don't forget the most important need we have is prayer! It's the "secret sauce of evangelism" and it the secret sauce of success in church ministry! Pray for soft hearts. Pray for endurance for teachers. Pray for clear biblical teaching!

Another school year is almost finished, which means another opportunity to celebrate our graduates. If your student is graduating, we want to celebrate them on May 17th. You should have received a letter about senior recognition Sunday. Please fill out the needed information and get that emailed to Joyce in the next few weeks. Also, if you are applying for our FBC scholarships, they must be turned into Bro. Brad by May 3rd!

Our student ministry is finishing our series we've been in since January. "6-7 Series" has taught each New Testament book, chapter 6 verse 7. We'll finish Hebrews and Revelation the last 2 weeks of April and then begin our summer series "No Cap Doctrine: What We Believe (And Why It Matters)." This summer our student ministry will take a deep dive into the Baptist Faith and Message to understand who we are as Southern Baptist.

Important Dates to Remember:

April 29th: Youth Serve Wed Night Dinner

May 3rd: Scholarship Application Due

May 17th: Senior Recognition

May 20th: Paxton High School Baccalaureate @ FBC

May 31st: Summer Camp Balance Due!!

May 31st – June 4th: Vacation Bible School

KIDS, STUDENTS, AND ADULTS!!

Blessings,
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-floral>

TRI-CITIES CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

Our sales for the month of March were \$8,515.71 and so far in the month of April we have reached \$5,083. Each month we are amazed at the many blessings that those sales provide to those in need.



It begins with your donation, which turn into our sales. That money is used to buy food to stock our food bank. Our volunteers also work hard all month in preparation for the one food-giveaway day. They unload the deliveries of food, they meet multiple times to bag the food in appropriate size bags, and then they work the distribution day as well.

We can never say enough about our great volunteers. Many work in the store, sorting, pricing, hanging or folding clothes. They always decorate seasonally to present a nice looking place for you to shop!

The Golden Rule of Volunteering: **Putting Others First.** Have you ever thought about what really makes a great volunteer? It's not just about showing up; it's about putting others first AND this is what our people do!

On Fri., April 17th, we were happy to serve 163 families, giving away 8,186 pounds of food. It's always a blessing to bless others.

Cindy Phillips

FBC LADIES MINISTRY

The Ladies Ministry Team's purpose is to serve the ladies of FBC, Florala. Our mission is to encourage, equip and engage women to make disciples to live like Jesus to transform the world for Christ. With that in mind, the team needs your help.

We have been tasked with finding a way to streamline our communication. Several members of our congregation have expressed issues and concerns with our "GroupMe". So many prayer requests get lost when we have too much "chatter" on these channels. The Ladies Ministry Team along with Bro. Chris is asking that we use one channel and keep its use strictly for sharing prayer requests. All announcements need to come to one of the team members for distribution another way. We also ask that personal comments be made to that person individually. If time allows, we encourage you to text a specific prayer to the individual. Please prayerfully consider the points of etiquette below. We want our communication to be useful and peaceful for all involved.

Group Chat Etiquette:

1. Be mindful of our purpose. Our channel exists to share mass prayer requests and ministry opportunities. It should be understood that everyone on this channel will see the request and pray over it. These responses clutter the conversation and make it harder to find the requests. If you want someone to know individually that you are praying for them, please text them individually.

2. Avoid over- messaging. Try to organize your thoughts into one clear message rather than sending short messages in rapid succession.


3. Respect people's time. If at all possible, try not to post early in the morning or late at night. Also, don't expect immediate responses. Trust our ladies to see your requests and act on it. Again, if you need someone personally, text her individually.

4. Think before sharing media. Images, videos, and links can sometimes be helpful but can also clutter and detract from the true request.

5. Protect privacy. Sometimes what seems harmless to you may make others feel uncomfortable. Before posting think - is this a prayer request, or can this be misconstrued as gossip?

Good chat etiquette is really about being thoughtful of both people and purpose- keeping the space peaceful, supportive, and spiritually focused. When we all follow a few simple principles, our chat group can become more useful, less stressful, and far more enjoyable to all involved.

Thank you for your heart for Christ
and your heart for one another!
The Ladies Ministry Team




FBC FLORALA

ACTS 1:8

30% ANNIE ARMSTRONG
30% LOTTIE MOON
30% CONNETICUT
10% DISCRETIONARY

MISSION GIVING



All monies given to Acts 1:8 will be held until the end of the year and then dispersed in the percentage amounts you see here.

Many families give a monthly offering to this designated fund to help with missions. Pray to see if this is something you might do.

FBC MENS MINISTRY

I recently read a post by Chuck Swindoll that I felt compelled to share.

“Athletes do not improve by watching YOUTUBE. Soldiers do not get stronger by listening to motivational talks. Bodybuilders do not get muscles by watching the barbells. Marathon runners do not train by walking one lap around the track.”

So, what makes men think they can grow spiritually by attending a one-hour church service?

In order to grow spiritually, we must make studying GOD’S Word a priority on a daily basis. JESUS said these words in Luke 9:23, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me.”

NOTE: GOLF OUTING COMING SOON

TRUST IN THE LORD
BRO BRENT

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

Sanctuary will be open if you’d like to come and pray!

CHRISTIANS ON THE GO **May 28**

Leave FBC @ 10:30am
Lunch is Dutch Treat
Great Food & Fellowship

GATOR CAFE, BAKER, FL

VOLUNTEER ROTATION LIST

Date	Little Lights (Birth-2 yrs)	Little Lambs (2-3 yrs)	Children Worship	Flowers
5/3	Layce A.	Dustin & Ashley G.	Katy D., Kim G.	Chris & Katy Davenport
5/10	Rhonda V.	Stephen & Lora B.	Lynn P.	Deane & Kathy Murphy
5/17	Connie H., Brinlee E.	Brad & Maria E.	Connor & Paiyton V.	Stephen & Lora Brazile
5/24	Jennifer B./Cassidy B.	Chloe R., Graci V.	Katy D., Kim G.	FBC for Memorial Day
5/31	Missy Z., Judy M.	Cindy P., McKenzie D.	Kaleb & Camryn C.	Kyle & Teasha Davis

Thank you volunteers for making yourselves available! Without you, this ministry would not happen!

Wednesday Night Teachers:

5/6	Bridget N., Teasha D.
5/13	Connie H., Kim T.
5/20	Katy D., Alecia C.
5/27	Bridget N., Teasha D.

GREETERS:

May 3 - Brent & Missy Z., Rod & Michele W.
 May 10 - Myron & Sheila A., Terri M., Lisa M.
 May 17 - Jason & Brittany K., Lynn P., Cathy J.
 May 24 - John & Tabitha C., Brent & Missy Z.
 May 31 - Darrell & Jeanie F., Traci V., Greg T.

PASTOR:
BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

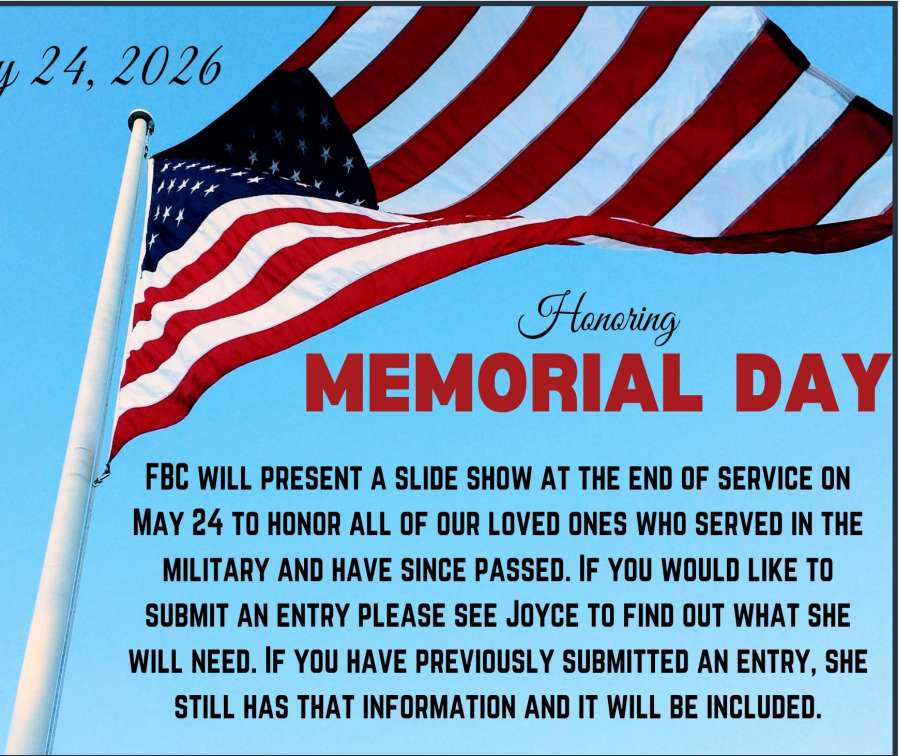
NEXTGEN PASTOR:
BRO. BRAD ELMORE

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

May 24, 2026



Honoring
MEMORIAL DAY

FBC WILL PRESENT A SLIDE SHOW AT THE END OF SERVICE ON MAY 24 TO HONOR ALL OF OUR LOVED ONES WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND HAVE SINCE PASSED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY PLEASE SEE JOYCE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE WILL NEED. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED AN ENTRY, SHE STILL HAS THAT INFORMATION AND IT WILL BE INCLUDED.



**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY**
MAY 10TH

On Wednesday, May 20th, we will host the **PHS Baccalaureate Program**.
We will NOT have our usual dinner, children classes or adult classes.

The Program will begin at 6pm in the Sanctuary and will last approximately an hour. Following the program, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship with the graduates and their families. We will serve finger foods and drinks.

If you would like to prepare/provide a tray of finger foods, or help serve and/or cleanup, please see one of the ladies from Special Events to find out specifically what is needed. They are: Terri McLaney, Joyce Farmer, Sheila Anderson, Brittany Klawitter, Jeanie Foley, Tracy Vaughn, Sue Rose and Missy Zessin.

We look forward to making it a special night for PHS Graduates & families.



*FBC Graduate
Recognition*
May 17
During Worship Service

*Ayden Brooks
Charles Greer
Cristalin Nidy*



May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>NO Childcare for D-Groups on 5/10 Final Childcare for D-Groups is 5/24</p>			<p>Men's Prayer Time 8:00am Each Tuesday</p>			1	2
3	4	<p>5 ↓ Sr. Adult Revival Oakey Ridge 10am RSVP to Brent</p>	<p>6 DINNER Chicken Fingers, Mac-N-Cheese, Green Beans</p>	<p>7 National Day Of Prayer Sanctuary will be open</p>	8	9	
<p>10 Happy Mother's Days</p>	11	12	<p>13 DINNER Spaghetti, Salad, Bread</p>	14	<p>15 CSC Food Distribution 9am-1pm</p>	16	
<p>17 Graduate Recognition & Family Lunch</p>	<p>18 Beacon Articles Due TODAY</p>	19	<p>20 No Dinner Or Classes PHS Bacc. 6pm Refreshments follow program</p>	21	22	23	
<p>24 Memorial Day Slides at end of Worship</p>	<p>25 Office Closed Happy Memorial Day</p>	26	<p>27 DINNER Burgers, Fries, Chips</p>	<p>28 COG to Gator Cafe in Baker Leave FBC @ 10:30pm</p>	29	30	
31	<p>FHS Graduation - May 21 @ 7:30pm PHS Graduation - May 23 @ 2:00pm</p>						

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR:
BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

23593 Fifth Avenue
Floral, AL 36442

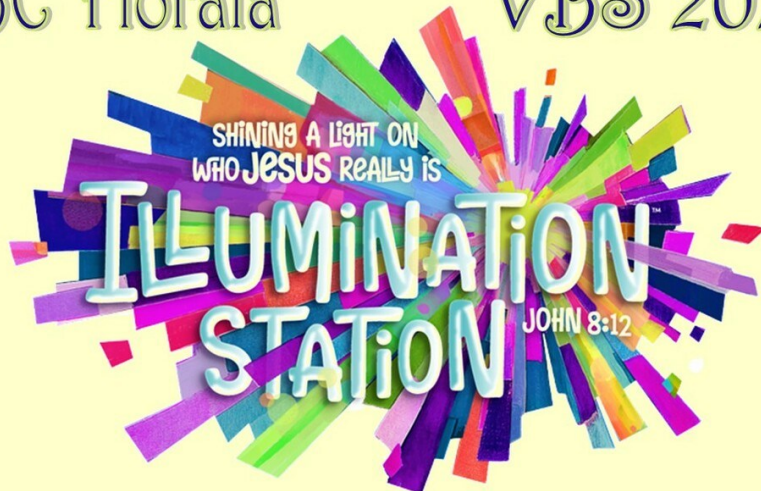
Phone: 334-858-3234
www.fbcfloral.com
Email: fbcjoyce@gmail.com



WHERE THINGS ARE HAPPENING
ONLY GOD CAN DO!

FBC Floral

VBS 2026



May 31 ~ June 4

**Go to our FaceBook page or
website to pre-register online!**



EVERY SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM

You Tube
LIVESTREAM

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



Scan this QR Code
to Visit Our
Website