

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

THE BEACON



JULY 2026
ISSUE 189



I want to thank you for allowing me to attend the Southern Baptist Convention. This year's convention, like many of the recent conventions, gained great media attention. Messengers voted to move forward with the Truth and Unity amendment to our constitution which solidifies our biblical conviction that the office of pastor is reserved for men. On Wednesday June 17th I worked to give a clear biblical defense of our beliefs on this subject. I did record this and if you would like a link to the recording, please reach out.

While the amendment was the focus for so many, I want to share some things that didn't get near the attention. In the past year SBC churches have baptized 263,075 people which means that we have had five consecutive years of baptism increases. This marks the first time that has happened in 75 years. The week before the convention at NAMB Crossover, which is a week of evangelism in the host city, there were nearly 4,000 volunteers who came and shared Christ to almost 20,000 people. Through that work 1,077 people made professions of faith. Through the SEND Network, NAMB has helped plant 699 new churches in North America. NAMB employees over 3,000 chaplains who combined shared the gospel 109,000 times and saw 19,602 people profess faith. You played a part in that through our church's Cooperative Program giving to the SBC and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The International Mission Board commissioned 63 new missionaries that are going to the field fully funded to join the more than 3,500 other fully funded IMB missionaries already on the field in 155 countries. These missionaries shared the gospel with 1.6 million people last year. Almost 145,000 of those people professed Christ. Over 2,400 churches were planted around the world. We played a part in that through our Cooperative Program giving and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Our six seminaries that our Cooperative Program supports have almost 25,000 people enrolled training to serve the Lord vocationally. Over 2,000 of those enrolled received a post graduate degree in the last year. We helped make that happen through our Cooperative Program giving.

While the SBC is not perfect God is doing some tremendous things through our cooperative effort. The SBC was designed to accomplish three things. They wanted to send missionaries globally, plant church domestically, and train pastors. We are doing those three things really well. While there is still great work to be done, we can and should celebrate what God has already done and look to him to lead us to do more.

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

Summer attendance in Sunday school is usually low and unpredictable. However, summertime presents us with some unique opportunities!

You could make Summer Sunday School special or unique. It might take a little planning and promoting but you might be surprised at the results, particularly if what you do is born out of prayer.

Here are some reasons why you should attend Sunday school during the summer:

- It provides a forum for learning:** This platform is comprised of students and teachers. Sunday School encourages spiritual interaction between the students and teachers, as well as providing a comprehensive way of learning as a group.
- It helps us grow spiritually:** Sunday School provides an opportunity for us to learn more about God’s Word and how it applies to our lives.
- It helps us build relationships:** Sunday School provides an opportunity for us to build relationships with other believers who can encourage us in our walk with Christ.



SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL,
 BRO. BRENT
 PROVERBS 3:5-6

SIDENOTE: GOD IS GOOD! This quarters Sr Adult SS lessons for the summer quarter goes long with our D-Group Reading. JOSHUA, JUDGES, and RUTH

**If you didn't have fun at V.B.S.,
 were you
 even
 TRYING?**



NEXTGEN PASTOR NEWS

Summer is in full swing for Next Gen ministries! I hope that as we are amid ball and vacation season that Christ is still the priority for you and your family. As I spoke a few weeks ago to our local football team, I asked them a question: "What is your purpose?" Paul told the Corinthians about the world around us, "...they do it for a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."¹ What is the "wreath" that you are encouraging your family to win?

We all love a good vacation and a great competitive game, but those things are fleeting comforts that can change in a moment. We will return from a vacation (that probably costs too much money). The game will end in victory or defeat, and the moment is short lived. However, building a legacy of faith on the solid foundation of Christ will never cease to be a rewarding endeavor.

As the last month of summer begins, let me encourage you to establish a pursuit of the kingdom in your home. "Seek first the kingdom...and all these things will be added to you,"² is a promise given to us by our Lord. We all want the best for our children; there is nothing this world offers that will benefit them like a Godly home. May we enjoy all the things we love FROM seeking the kingdom; as opposed to enjoying the things we love INSTEAD OF seeking the kingdom.

Try these 4 steps to prioritize Jesus in your home:

- Establish a daily devotion time for your family. Each person spending time with Jesus, alone, in a quiet home.
- Prioritize church attendance. Sunday school, worship service, and Wednesday bible study.
- Encourage extracurricular. "And day by day..."³ May our children see that fellowship with believers is held in high regard!
- Have at least 2 meetings of family worship; where parents read the Bible and lead discussion, prayers are prayed, and songs are sung to our Lord.

¹1 Corinthians 9:25b

²Matthew 6:33

³Acts 2:46a

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-florala>

TRI-CITIES CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Just sharing information to help you know who we are and what we do.

The Christian Service Centers of Covington Co.

is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) charity. Our purpose here is to help the physical needs in our county while also pointing everyone who walks through our doors to the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

We help with physical needs in our county through monthly food distributions, clothing and other household items. Churches, individuals, and some companies donate the items that are available for sale. Proceeds from the daily sales help provide support for the food distribution ministry, disaster relief response teams, Crossover Ministry, New Life Sober House, Christian Women's Job Corp, professional counseling available at the Covington Baptist Association office and many more ministries as well.

Three essentials allow us to carry out this vital ministry and they are volunteers, donations and shoppers. If you fall into any of these 3 categories, **we thank you so much!**

1 John 3:17: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"



Cindy Phillips

FOOT SURGERY UPDATE

On Wednesday, June 3rd, I had surgery to repair a tear in my anterior tibular tendon and lengthening of my posterior tibular tendon or Achilles. What was to be a 2 hour surgery turned into a 4 hour surgery when my anterior tendon tore again while my surgeon was repairing the first tear. Though this was a setback, my prognosis is good with a long recovery ahead of me.

As of now, I am in a splint with heavy gauze and Ace bandage dressings. Missy and I will be headed back to Fairhope on June 11th to get a hard cast put on. I will be in this cast for 6-8 weeks. At the end of this 2-3 month period, I should get a boot and will be in it for 6-8 weeks. From that point, I should be in a brace and have physical therapy for 6-8 weeks.

I would like to encourage you all to listen when the Lord talks. I am non-weight bearing on my right leg for up to 2-4 months. I'm having lots of time to ponder what the Lord has for me. I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO TAKE TIME TO BE STILL AND LISTEN TO HIS CALLING.

Missy and I praise the Lord for a wonderful church family. From food and cards to text messages and calls, each act of your service came at just the right time. Thank you for listening to the Lord and loving on us.

While you may not see me physically for a few weeks, I am always just a phone call away. I am eager to pray with you and for you and be of service to any of you in any way I can.

Bro. Brent
Proverbs 3:5-6

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

I cannot say thank you enough to James Pickron and Gayle Robbins for continuing to serve the residents of the nursing home in my down time. If you want to receive a blessing, meet them on Tuesdays at 10am to hear a great lesson and lift up the Lord through songs of praise. The residents at Floral Health and Rehab are always hungry for God's word and anyone who will visit with them.

Bro. Brent
Proverbs 3:5-6

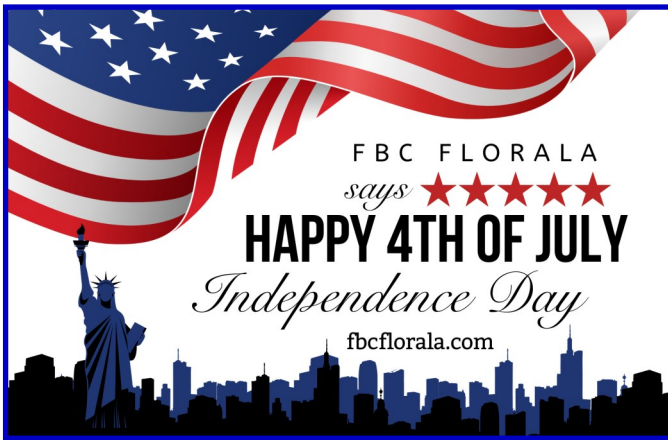
TREASURER'S REPORT

In June our church enjoyed a fantastic week of Vacation Bible School. Our church was filled with young children, youth, and a host of adults. During the week the children gave their pennies, nickels, and dimes. Some even went to social media to help collect funds. Everything collected was sent to our sister church plant in Connecticut.

At week's end a total of \$2,414.55 had been donated to help spread the gospel in this area. Thank you to each and every one of you who gave so generously! You are truly missionaries to another part of the US.

As always, if you have any questions concerning the financial reports at FBC, please feel free to call the church office or contact me at 334-300-9433, and we will be glad to answer your questions.

Have a Blessed Fourth of July,
Sheila Anderson, Treasurer



There will be NO "Coffee and Christ" in July. We plan to return in August.



VOLUNTEER ROTATION LIST

Date	Little Lights (Birth-2 yrs)	Little Lambs (2-3 yrs)	Children Worship	Flowers
7/5	Connie H., Brintlee E.	Brad & Maria E.	THERE WILL BE	FBC for 4th of July
7/12	Jennifer B., Cassidy B.	Chloe R., Graci V.	NO CHILDREN'S	Janice Ansley
7/19	Missy Z., Judy M.	Cindy P.	WORSHIP IN	Al & Sara Goolsby
7/26	Lewis & Lori T.	Kim T., Alissa W.	JUNE OR JULY	Tom & Sandy Hunt

Wednesday Night Teachers:	
7/1	Katy D., Alecia C.
7/8	Bridget N., Teasha D.
7/15	Connie H., Kim T.
7/22	Katy D., Alecia C.
7/29	Bridget N., Teasha D.



GREETERS:
July 5: Rod, Michele, Terri, Tracy
July 12: Jason, Brittany, Lynn, Cathy
July 19: Myron, Sheila, Jeanie
July 26: Donald, Rhonda, Gene, Jean

Without you, we could not do what we do!

PASTOR:

BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

NEXTGEN PASTOR:

BRO. BRAD ELMORE

ASSOC. PASTOR:

BRO. BRENT ZESSIN

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

DALE COLE

ACTIVE DEACONS:

JOHN COVERSTONE

CARLTON DUKES

WADE FARMER

DARRELL FOLEY

BOBBY PHILLIPS

JAMES PICKRON

JEREMY RADNEY

RICHARD REEVES (CH)

GREG TAYLOR

AL BENNETT

DEACON EMERITUS

FBC LADIES MINISTRY

In our recent D Group readings, we've had the privilege of visiting the stories of Hannah and Ruth. The stories of these women both encouraged and challenged me. Hannah never tired of taking her sorrow and needs to the Lord. She was committed to seeking the Lord for answers to her barrenness, and what did she do when God answered her prayer? She took Samuel and left him in God's service and care as soon as he was weaned: "I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD."

(1 Samuel 1:27-28) Likewise Ruth, when faced with leaving everything she had ever known, chose to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth sensed something very different about the God Naomi followed. Ruth knew that no matter the hardships ahead of her she would be blessed if she followed the God of Naomi: "But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.'" Ruth 1:16-17

As I meditated on the stories of these great women from the Bible, I was convicted to look at my own dedication of service to the Lord. (I also have to give Brother Chris credit for the challenges of his recent messages on becoming a Christ-like servant.) Like Ruth, am I willing to leave my own comfort zone and serve wherever and in whatever way God has called me? Like Hannah, am I willing to give what God has blessed me with to see His will be done? I hope as you ponder these questions you allow God to guide you to those areas where He needs your service and answer, "Here am I."

I must say before closing that we have just finished up a very successful VBS in our church. I saw many of our women serving in various areas of that ministry and it was such a blessing for me to see. From the kitchen crew to registration to nightly attending the adult class, it was important for our kids to see your faithful service to the Lord. Thank you for giving to Him this in this ministry, and I pray as you rest up, you begin looking for that next area of service. As I've seen through the stories of Hannah and Ruth, it is definitely more blessed to give than receive.

Upcoming events:

August 2nd - Community service (Rodney Evans Building) - *Back to School Bash* - school supplies will be needed as well as volunteers to hand out supplies- more details to come.

September 12th - *Bible and Brunch* - fellowship event for our ladies from 9:30-11:30 in the fellowship hall. If hospitality is your gift, please ask how you can help.

October 22nd - *CeCe Winans concert, Pensacola, FL*- tickets were previously purchased for this event.

ALL FBC LADIES: If you are not a part of the "GROUP ME" text for Ladies Ministry, and would like to be included, please contact Missy Zessin or Katy Davenport to be added.

In His Service,
Missy Zessin

July 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Men's Prayer
8:00am Tuesday

		↓	1 <u>DINNER</u> Taco Salad, Dessert, Iced Tea	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8 <u>DINNER</u> Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Peach Cobbler, Iced Tea	9	10	11
12 Deacon Meeting 4pm	13	14	15 <u>DINNER</u> Sloppy Joes, Fries, Dessert, Iced Tea	16	17 Food Distribution at CSC 9am-1pm	18
19	20 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	21	22 <u>DINNER</u> Fried Fish, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies, Dessert, Iced Tea	23 COG to Calamity Creek in Samson Leave FBC @ 10:30pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 <u>DINNER</u> Pizza, Salad, Dessert, Iced 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!**

JOIN US



FOR

**SUMMER
IN
PSALMS**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:45AM

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00AM

**PASTOR CHRIS DAVENPORT
NEXTGEN PASTOR BRAD ELMORE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR BRENT ZESSIN**

you are invited

WELCOME

FBC Floral

Wednesday Night
Dinner 5:30pm
Bible Study 6:15pm



**TeamKid Classes
for All Ages**

Grade 7-12
Student Worship



**FIND US ON
FACEBOOK**

**EVERY SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM**

**You Tube
LIVESTREAM**

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



Scan this QR Code
to Visit Our
Website