

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLORALA, AL

THE BEACON

Words from our Pastor

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:9 that God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Greek word used here for fellowship is *koinonia*. This word points to an interactive relationship between God and believers through Christ. This word goes so far beyond a fellowship meal at the church. Jesus has created a common bond among those who surrender to him as Lord to live in partnership with him and his other followers to carry out his redemptive plan for mankind.

Unfortunately, we don't always live as if we are in this partnership together. While Jesus has made us all family and given us a common goal, we can tend to not interact or treat each other as such. We can easily allow our differences to outweigh what we have in common. We tend to be more welcoming to those who look, act, dress, talk, think, vote, or have similar economic means as us. We tend to put the fellowship at risk over differences of opinion or a heart of unforgiveness. We break fellowship through things like gossip, criticism, and bitterness toward one another. We must strive to protect this fellowship for the cause of Christ. With these thoughts in mind, I want to lay out a challenge for all of us to help protect the *koinonia* at FBC.

Connect with Church Members Outside of Your Normal Circles

Connect with Visitors

- Invite them for a meal

- Regularly text them to see how to pray for them

- Sit with different people at Wednesday Night dinner

- Sit with different people during a service

- Stay after church just to talk and enjoy others church goers' company

Invite others into the Fellowship

- Encourage people to attend church with you

- Share the gospel frequently as Salvation is the door to entering the fellowship

Protect the Reputation of Fellow Church Members/Attendees

- Gracefully stop any and all gossip or criticism and encourage that person to stop and pray with you for the individual being spoken about

- Gracefully receive/offer accountability with one another

Build Up Fellow Church Members/Attendees

- Provide a smile, a word of encouragement, or praise

- Lend a helping hand in their times of need

- Bless them in some physical way just because you want them to know you love them

We sing about being the family of God every week. Let us be sure to set a good example for what the family of God should look and act like for those who visit our church, those who live in Florala, and those around the world to see.

Blessings, Bro. Chris

AUGUST 2026

ISSUE 190



**FBC
FLORALA**

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

2026 SAMARITAN'S PURSE



I know you are saying it is the middle of the summer, and HERE we are pushing Operation Christmas Child. But it is only 4 months, 16 weeks, or 112 days away from our church hosting a drop off collection center and packing our boxes. PRAISE THE LORD For the **560** Christmas shoe boxes that you and our church gave to the LORD last year. Our church collection center took in 914 boxes that week. Please start planning with your Sunday School class how to make 2026 the best ever. Our goal for FBC FLORALA is **700** boxes and **1400** boxes total as a collection center. There are millions of children around the world that will be impacted by the simple shoebox gift you/our church gives. One box can touch not only just the child, but the whole family.

Ways you can help: PRAY; Pack a Box; Give financially; Volunteer to man our collection center; Go on a mission trip to Atlanta to the processing center; Tell the churches in our area and individuals about Operation Christmas Shoeboxes.

THANKS FOR GIVING TO THE LORD!

BRO BRENT, PROVERBS 3:5-6

BREAKING GROUND MISSIONS, UGANDA, AFRICA

Just over a year ago Carlton Dukes, Darrell Foley, and Brent and Missy Zessin took a life changing mission trip to Uganda, Africa to share the gospel of JESUS CHRIST. We witnessed 109 souls saved, but to know that many more seeds were planted and watered also weighs on our hearts. Our personal takeaway is that we, and we as a church, need to be more intentional about sharing the gospel in ALL nations and right where we are – EVERYDAY. Don't just stop when you find out what church a person attends, but make sure that person can tell you what they will say when God stands before them and says, "Why should I let you in MY HEAVEN?"

I recently read this post on the BREAKING GROUND MISSION FACEBOOK page:

"On Sundays, believers around the world will gather to worship the same Savior, hear the same Word, and proclaim the same gospel. As you sit in your church on Sunday morning, remember that there are still billions of people who have never had that opportunity. Many have never held a Bible in their own language. Many have never heard the name of Jesus explained faithfully—not even once. The church was never meant to be a place where we simply receive. It is the place where we are equipped, encouraged, and then sent. So worship wholeheartedly. Listen attentively. Serve joyfully. And don't forget the mission waiting beyond the church doors. May every Sunday's worship deepen your love for Christ and strengthen your resolve to make Him known among the nations. *"Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!"* — Psalm 96:3"

BRO. BRENT, PROVERBS 3:5-6

SUNDAY SCHOOL

RUNNING THE RACE – I AM A DISCIPLE

I am a Runner – I am a Disciple – I will run the race set before me.
 I Do Not run for an ideal. I Do Not run with an ordinary person.
 I run in the steps of One Man. No one is like HIM.
 HE took sin. He made the HEAVENS.
 HE paid for Redemption with HIS death.
 I call HIM Father, Savior, My GOD, & My Friend.
 He has every right, BUT does not Condemn.
 HE came to give. Freedom from Darkness. Love to the Loveless.
 Faith in HIM will never fail.
 That is the ONE I RUN WITH. His name is JESUS.
 HE CALLED MY NAME. HE told me to take up my Cross & Follow HIM.
 HE told me to GO tell the STORY. To Speak it BOLDLY.
 My Fresh may cry out, But I will NOT Give IN.
 I will live for someone who stared DEATH in the face.
 Only to rise in Victory.
 HE is for me, who can stand against me.
 LIP SERVICE IS NOT AN OPTION.
 I WILL NOT SIT IN A PEW. I WILL NOT BITE MY TONGUE.
 BUT FOR HIM & THROUGH HIM I WILL RUN!
 HE has marked out a race for me. From start to finish.
 I Will seek HIS face. I will Live & Love like JESUS.
 By HIS POWER.
 I will give up what I can NOT keep to gain what I can NOT LOSE.

I WILL RUN WITH HIM! I WILL RUN WITH JESUS!
 WILL YOU???????????????

Hebrews 11:1-3, Ephesians 2:8-10, Hebrews 12:1-2
 I Corinthians 9: 24-27, & 2 Timothy 4:7.

Brother Brent,
 Proverbs 3:5-6

Run With Jesus



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

Our center has been blessed with \$8,425.00 in sales so far this month.



On our food distribution day, Friday, July 17th we gave out 5080# of food, serving 151 families. This number is a good bit lower than usual, indicating that several of our usual recipients did not pick up their food. If you know someone who normally is given food, but suspect they may have trouble getting transportation on distribution day, please offer to help them. You can bring them or you can get permission to pick up their food and take it to them. We never want to have anyone go without the food that we have for them. Also please make it a point to pick up your food on this designated day, not the next week. We are staffed and prepared to give out food on the 3rd Friday each month but if you come in at a later time, it disrupts the regular flow of business and work that is going on, and also makes the paperwork a harder task than it needs to be. We appreciate you when you help us to help you!

Hebrews 13:16 says "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

We at CSC always strive to do what is pleasing to God.

Cindy Phillips

NEXTGEN PASTOR

"It's a slow fade
When you give yourself away
It's a slow fade
When black and white have turned to grey
And thoughts invade, choices made"

"A price will be paid
When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day
Daddies never crumble in a day
Families never crumble in a day"

One of my favorite songs (and there are many) by Casting Crowns warns us of all the dangers of small and, seemingly, insignificant choices we make on daily basis. Everyone has hopes and dreams for their child's future. We all want our children to be successful and happy. We hope our children find a spouse who treats them well. Most of all, I hope we want our children to love the Lord and be faithful to a local church. However, we all know that behavior follows belief; if you believe all the above for your children's future, are you exemplifying that behavior now? They are watching you, Mommy and Daddy.

I've heard and seen many times in my life a heartbroken parent over a wayward child. I do not want to make light of a straying child and how heartbreaking that situation may be; however, there is generally ALWAYS a link to straying children and a season of unfaithfulness they saw in his or parents. Sometimes that season is unfaithful church attendance, lack of regular prayer, gratifying ungodly friendships, or blatant disobedience. Whatever the case, the enemy can use those faults in our personal lives to sow seeds of disobedience in our children's spiritual lives (which then rears its ugly head in parental and authoritarian disregard).

You have a significant opportunity ahead of you to begin this next school year with a commitment to faithfulness. No one has lived a perfect life! I, more than most, find myself sitting down with my children and wife and asking forgiveness for how I acted or reacted: but isn't that the beauty of God's grace in our lives?! When we make a mess of it, God is waiting to pour his mercy on those who will acknowledge their mistakes and seek forgiveness and repentance. DON'T WAIT ANOTHER WEEK, DAY, OR HOUR to begin seeking the Lord in your home. Do it for the sake of your love of Christ, your love for your children and spouse, your love of this church, and your love for those around you.

No matter how small or insignificant sin may seem, it is a slow fade down a slippery slope, Mom and Dad, when we begin to turn away from God one small decision at a time. Remember, they are watching us.

"so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God." Psalm 78:7-8

"Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored." Proverbs 13:18

Blessings,
Bro. Brad



Council Meeting

AUG. 3RD
6:00PM

Bring your
ministry plans and
your calendar!

LORD'S SUPPER

AUGUST 9TH
END OF WORSHIP



DEACON MEETING

AUGUST 9TH
4:00-5:00PM



Christians on the Go

PLATEFUL
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS

Bus leaves FBC
@ 10:30am

August 27th



FOOD FUN FELLOWSHIP

Baby Shower Table

**Bring Diapers & Wipes or a Gift Card to
bless the Walkers as they add a
new baby to their family!**

The Walker Family

Table will be up Aug. 16-31

TREASURER'S REPORT

On Sunday, July 19th, at a scheduled church business meeting, our membership voted on the proposed completion of painting in our main sanctuary building. This project includes the two Sunday School rooms and the three overflow seating areas at the back of the sanctuary area. Also included are all of the individual rooms behind the seating area in the balcony, along with both foyers and stairwells leading from balcony to the floor below. The walls, trim, and ceilings are to be scraped and repaired before painting. The bid for this project was \$45,000.

The Building & Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee jointly presented this project and were available for any questions or discussions. With no questions, a vote was taken, and it passed unanimously to complete the project.

We are thankful that we can continue to take care of our beautiful church. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me or our church office.

Sheila Anderson, Treasurer

FLOWERS:

Aug. 2: Rod & Michele Williams
Aug. 9: Bobby & Cindy Phillips
Aug. 16: Keith Free, Teresa Epperson
Aug. 23: Jerry & Martha Morgan
Aug. 30: James & Dot Pickron

**THANK
YOU
VOLUNTEERS**

GREETERS:

Aug. 2: Rod, Michele, Terri, Tracy
Aug. 9: Jason, Brittany, Lynn, Cathy
Aug. 16: Myron, Sheila, Jeanie
Aug. 23: Donald, Rhonda, Gene, Jean
Aug. 30: Rod, Michele, Terri, Tracy

PASTOR:

BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

NEXTGEN PASTOR:

BRO. BRAD ELMORE

ASSOC. PASTOR:

BRO. BRENT ZESSIN

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

We have two awesome opportunities to get fed and get involved:

Jennifer Bradley is the FBC point of contact for the first event shown below. Make sure to get your donations of money or supplies in. We will meet Wednesday, July 29th after evening worship to put together our goodie bags.

The FBC point of contact for the second event is **Jeanie Foley**. Such a great opportunity for worship, fellowship, and digging into God's Word right here at our own Camp Victory. Please pray about joining us there.

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Community BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

LET'S START THE YEAR STRONG!

FUN! FRIENDS! COMMUNITY! SUCCESS!

Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and back-to-school excitement for local students and homeschool families!

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

TIME: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: RODNEY J. EVANS BUILDING LAKE JACKSON, FLORALA, ALABAMA

STUDENTS WELCOME FROM:

- W.S. HARLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- FLORALA HIGH SCHOOL
- PAXTON SCHOOL
- LAUREL HILL SCHOOL
- HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

ENJOY:

- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS
- GIVEAWAYS
- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

LAKE JACKSON

CONTACT: Jennifer Davidson * 334.470.0491

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grace collective

2026 Women's Retreat

Growing in FRUITFULNESS

Fri, Sept 18th at 10:30 am to Sat, Sept 19th at 3:00 pm

located on the beautiful grounds of **CAMP VICTORY**
363 Victory Circle, Samson, Alabama

Retreat Speaker: JENNIFER BOOTH

Worship Leaders: JOSH & HANNAH KNIGHT

Retreat Registration includes overnight lodging at Camp Victory, 4 full meals, retreat materials, a special welcome gift and so much more!

For full registration info, visit www.GraceCollectiveWM.com/Events

**GUEST SPEAKER AUGUST 30TH****Tim LaFleur, Gallatin, Tennessee**

He serves as the Director of Spiritual Formation for Follow the Call. Tim LaFleur has served in a variety of ministry roles from the small to mega-church environment. He served twenty years as the campus minister at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. His previous church assignments were at Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee; and he served as the Equipping Pastor at Living Word Church in Houma, Louisiana. Tim is a disciple-maker, and he

played an integral role assisting Replicate Ministries for 15 years. He received his undergraduate degree at Louisiana State University and M.A. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Tim is also the author of "The Heart of a Disciplemaker".

August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Men's Prayer
8:00am Tuesday

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2 Back to School Bash 3-5pm RJE Bldg.	3 Council Meeting 6pm	4	5 <u>DINNER</u> Chicken Fingers, Mac-N-Cheese, Green Beans,	6	7	8
9 Lord's Supper	10	11 Walton County Schools Resume	12 <u>DINNER</u> Grilled Chicken Thighs, Rice, Green Beans,	13	14	15
Deacon Meeting 4pm						
16	17 Covington County Schools Resume	18	19 <u>DINNER</u> Hamburger Gravy w/ Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert	20	21 Food Distribution at CSC 9am-1pm	22
23	24 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	25	26 <u>DINNER</u> Hamburger & Potato Casserole, Veggie, Dessert	27 COG to Plateful in DeFuniak Springs	28	29
30 Guest Speaker: Tim LaFleur Author of "The Heart of a Disciple Maker"	31					

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR:
BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

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Floral, AL 36442

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Email: fbcjoyce@gmail.com



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

Back to School Safety Tips



- Watch for children
- Obey school zone speed limits
- Do not pass a bus loading or unloading children
- Never pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks
- Pay attention to school crossing guards
- Eliminate distractions
- Use designated student drop-off and pick-up zone.



**EVERY SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM**

You Tube
LIVESTREAM

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



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Website