

The Beacon



First Baptist Church

September 2026

www.fbcfloralala.com

Notes from Pastor Chris



I pray that you have enjoyed, been encouraged, and challenged by our Summer in Psalms series. Studying and preaching the selected Psalms has certainly drawn me closer to the Lord. As the summer ends and schedules become more routine and church attendance tends to become more consistent it is time for us to pick back up in our Dream Disciple Series. If you recall, at the start of the year we started our new Discipleship model and D-Groups which prompted preaching through who a disciple of Jesus should be. As members of the global church and of FBC Florala this dream disciple framework is a snapshot of who we should desire and strive to be. We believe, and evidence supports, that being a part of a discipleship group is a critical component of growing into this type of disciple. While Sunday School and corporate worship is also critical, the Discipleship groups provide a more intimate setting that creates a more robust accountability structure to the spiritual disciplines.

Prior to the summer we saw that a dream Disciple should be a...

F - Faithful Follower of Jesus and His Word

B - Bold Witness for Jesus to the World

C - Christ-Like Servant to All

In the coming weeks we will see how a dream disciple is also

F - Fully Accountable to God and the Church

Prior to jumping into the last part of this series, we get to host a special guest who I would call an expert on the work of discipleship. Tim LaFleur, who played a major roll in developing the Replicate Discipleship model that we are using and who has invested most of his life intentionally discipling others, will be here to pour into our D-Group facilitators on Saturday and preach to our congregation on Sunday on the subject of discipleship. You don't want to miss August 30 because I can assure you that Bro. Tim will be a treat for us all.

Finally, I just wanted to share our heart about moving service times back starting in September. We are attempting to remove as many barriers as possible for our young families with children to plug into Sunday School. Just like D-Groups, we believe Sunday School is critical for the disciple's development. We also desperately want to see all our young children involved in a weekly small group Bible study so they can develop a strong foundation in the Word. While some may not be thrilled about the time change, I pray you can see the intent behind it. Pray that this change would help breathe new life into our Sunday School effort and make getting more engaged in the life of the church more accessible for these young families.

Blessings, Bro. Chris

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14 NKJ

*Opportunities
For Worship*

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:15AM
Worship 10:30AM

WEDNESDAY

Dinner 5:30pm
Requested Donation
is \$5 for Adult Meals

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study
for ALL Ages
6:15-7:15pm

THANK YOU FOR 17 YEARS

It is after much soul searching and long talks with the Lord that I have reached this conclusion and find that it is time to vacate my position at FBC as secretary. I have been honored to hold this position since Feb. 2010 and I could never imagine being ready to move on, but that time has come. I do intend to work through the month of January 2027 so that I can fully train someone to replace me in the office, and help them start the new year.

Please know that I have fully enjoyed my job and am very sad to leave, but I know that it is time for a younger, more energetic person to hold this position, and for me to go. I feel at peace with that decision in every way. A year ago, I couldn't imagine ever saying those words, so I am certain that God is in this decision. Thank you for 17 years of the best job I could have ever imagined having. I look forward to what God has for me next.

In Christ, Joyce Farmer

Fully Flood Florida
September 27th / 3:30-5:00pm
Meet in Fellowship Hall



Beginning Sept. 6th, we are starting
TWO NEW Sunday School Classes

COLLEGE & PROFESSIONALS (AGES 18-26)
 led by Brad & Maria Elmore

YOUNG COUPLES led by Chris & Katy Davenport

Both Classes are in the Balcony

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FLORALA

PART-TIME CHURCH Secretary

POSITION AVAILABLE

Responsibilities Include:

- All clerical and administrative duties
- Ordering supplies
- Keeping website updated and current
- Create weekly bulletin
- Create monthly newsletter
- Key in all financial information
- Pay bills
- File and pay taxes

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 Contact the church office
 by email at:
fbcjoyce@gmail.com

POSITION WILL BEGIN
October 1

PAY IS NEGOTIABLE
 according to experience.

Make a Difference. Be a Blessing.

HELPING OUR CHURCH MINISTER THROUGH ORGANIZATION, SERVICE & SUPPORT

**NOTE TIME
CHANGES:**
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM
BEGINS SEPT. 6TH

*Pastoral
Staff &
Deacons*

PASTOR
 BRO. CHRIS DAVENPORT

NEXTGEN PASTOR
 BRO. BRAD ELMORE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
 BRO. BRENT ZESSIN

ACTIVE DEACONS:

JOHN COVERSTONE
 WADE FARMER
 BOBBY PHILLIPS
 JEREMY RADNEY
 GREG TAYLOR

CARLTON DUKES
 DARRELL FOLEY
 JAMES PICKRON
 RICHARD REEVES (CH)
 AL BENNETT (DEACON EMERITUS)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer trips are winding down. School has begun. Students are moving into new grades. Our church calendar is filling up. Volunteers are being recruited. Summer Sermon series in the Psalms is finishing up. Football season is fast approaching. Before long, parking lots will be fuller, schedules will be tighter, and if we're not careful, we'll spend the next four months reacting instead of leading. Before fall gets too busy, I would like for us to consider one question.

What do you hope will actually be different in your Sunday School Class and/or Our Church by the end of 2026?

I want to ask this one simple question before the pace picks up:

Not what events will happen. Not what attendance will be. Not even how many ministries will launch. Jesus did NOT simply call us to gather people. He called us to Share the Gospel and make disciples who make disciples.

When January arrives, what kind of people, what kind of disciples, do you hope FBC FLORALA is growing?

Because disciple-making movements aren't built by busy calendars. They're built by keeping the mission in front of the people week after week, month after month.

Jesus's final words are still our first work. GO MAKE DISCIPLES!

As fall season begins, my encouragement is simple:

Don't let activity quietly replace Intentionality. Work with the end in mind. Keep making disciples and sharing the Gospel the measure of success. Everything else should serve that mission.

Healthy disciple-making cultures Intentionally help people grow in their relationship with Jesus and equip them to invest in someone else's spiritual growth.

BRO BRENT, PROVERBS 3:5-6.



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<https://tithely.app.link/fbc-florala>

TRI-CITIES CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

This month's article will not be about numbers at the CSC. No...this article is all about my sweet friend, Joyce. She has announced her retirement from FBC. She does way more than is expected of her. Ads, flyers, CSC cards. She is always there giving her extra time to help us out.



When I first started including this article for CSC in the Beacon, I was like 'what do I say'. Each month I gave Joyce our food numbers and sales and said blah. Blah, blah which meant flu flu it up!!!! 😭 And boy did she always make me look good! So, it became a joke with us. Joyce, just blah, blah, blah it!! She is the best!!!

Thank goodness she will continue to cook pots of soup to feed us on food day each month!! I will be forever grateful for her always being there for me. But...we have a few more months of blah, blah, blah before the final chapter of this season ends.

Thank you my friend. May God bless you and Wade as you enjoy your retirement!!

1 Thessalonians 5:1 *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up."*

Forever Sisters in Christ,

Cindy ❤️



MEN'S MINISTRY

"A Critical Question for Every Man and Every Father

PROVERBS 4:18-27.

As a middle schooler I remember going flying in a small plane here at the Floral airport with my dad. The two of us, would go through an hour or more doing a preflight inspection before we would board the small plane. He would check out the inside of the aircraft to make sure that all the instruments were working and inspect the outside of the plane, especially its integrity, to ensure that there are no cracks in the wings or fuselage. Even a minor breach can spell disaster once the plane is in the air. One thing I learned was that it was a critical responsibility of a pilot to do a preflight inspection before he and his passengers boarded the vessel. Likewise, there are inspections and critical questions you need to be ready for as a man and father to keep your life from disaster. This is one of the most important. *"A Husband and/or father must ensure that he is living a life of integrity as he carries his children on the journey.*

To compromise, even in the slightest, could be devastating for a child." Integrity is what you do when no one else is looking.

Dark secrets in your life can cause a dangerous breach in your fatherhood fuselage and keep you from growing as a leader in your home. Addictions - sexual, pornographic, gambling, drugs, alcohol—are primary culprits that will keep you from being the dad you want to be. When something unhealthy or wrong tempts your heart, you must guard your heart against that temptation. The question is what we are going to do with that temptation that constantly sneaks its way into our lives. Proverbs 4:23 says, *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."* When temptation calls our name and seduces us, rarely do we take a step back, look at it logically, and say, "Okay, I see this thing that is tempting me. Sure, it is exciting, it's fun, and will make me feel so good. But I'm not going to go there because it not only will hurt me in the long run, but it will deeply wound my wife and my children." So, how then can we guard our hearts against being taken down the wrong runway toward an affair, gambling, greed, workaholism, or pornography?

Be Open for Inspection

One place to start is to be "open for inspection" at any time and at any place. Here are a few personal examples.

- My wife, Missy, knows my computer password and can access it any time to see what I am reading and looking at. She can also see my calendar at any time.
- Missy and my kids can also pick up my smartphone any time to read my texts and emails and check out what kind of music I'm listening to.
- Missy has complete access to our financial accounts and can see where the money goes.
- A couple of my friends also know they have the freedom to probe into my life to ensure that I stay on course. So, are you open for inspection any time and at any place?

BRO. BRENT PROVERBS 3:5-6

SANCTUARY

FLOWERS:

- 9/6 Donna Milner
- 9/13 Lora Brazile
- 9/20 Martha Steele
- 9/27 Lynn Pomas



Homecoming is October 4th

Help us keep things nice and tidy
for our special day!

- We will NOT have Sunday School that day.
- We need everyone to bring side dishes and desserts to accompany the fried chicken FBC provides.
- After the fellowship meal, please stay and help clean up.
- If you bring dishes, take them back with you. Please do not leave them for others to wash up.

NEXTGEN PASTOR

I don't know one person who doesn't invest in the things that are important to them; you are probably no different. There isn't anything necessarily wrong with the many areas of life that consume our time. Recreation, careers, and financial success are good things to invest in; after all the Lord can certainly bless his children through wise stewardship of the resources he provides. Many of us read books, listen to podcasts, or attend conferences that will help us achieve more out of our investments. What about investing in the single most important responsibility God's given you...your family?

I have been reading a book called *The Redeemed Man* which is, essentially, a collection of essays discussing how the redeemed man approaches different areas of daily life. Jason Helopoulos writes chapter eight "The Redeemed Man Leading His Family" and I want to share a couple of things that stood out to me.

A) A Leader Leads:

It is abundantly clear from Genesis to Revelation that God has given parents, and men in particular, the responsibility to shepherd our families. Headship, leadership, submission, and protection are words that are most common in the Bible and in the church when the topic of parenting comes up. When I think of these words, I think of a shepherd because a good shepherd will provide all those things. There is nothing worse

than a leader who doesn't lead! Mom and Dad, God has given you the unique opportunity to lead your children. Do so well!

B) A Leader Provides:

Paul gives some very pointed instruction in 1 Timothy 5:8 as to the expectation of a redeemed man providing for his family. Paul tells us that a man who doesn't provide for his family is "worse than an unbeliever." Yes, this speaks of material provision but with all that the Bible gives us about spiritual responsibility, provision goes beyond materials. We are to bring our children up in the admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). I hope that you gladly bear the responsibility to provide the material needs of your children, but I hope just as much you are providing the eternal needs of your children.

There is much more that can be said about the redeemed man's approach to leading his family. As I began this article, I'll leave you with a question: Are you investing in the single most important responsibility God's given you...your family? If you haven't been, now would be a great time to start! Take seriously the call to shepherd your family.

Beeke, Phillips, Smalley. *The Redeemed Man*. 2025. Reformation Heritage Books

Bro. Brad, NextGen Pastor

F
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FBC FLORALA
Coffee & Christ
Thurs., Sept. 10 @ 10am
Join us for
Brunch in the
Fellowship Hall



Baby Dedication
Cooper Anderson
Raegen Bodie
Kurtis Casey
Bowen Crum
Marsh Varnum
SEPTEMBER 13TH
DURING WORSHIP SERVICE
Come show your support to
our growing families



CHRISTIANS ON THE GO
SEPTEMBER 24
BUS LEAVES FBC @ 10:30AM
JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME OF
FELLOWSHIP AND A GREAT MEAL
DUTCH TREAT!



Family GAME NIGHT
Get ready for a night full of fun,
fellowship and friendly competition!
Friday
September 25th
5:30-8 | Fellowship Hall
BYO Games to share
Taco Bar
Fun for all ages



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FINANCE REPORT

Welcome September!! This month is the beginning of the school year, fall leaves, and we hope for cooler weather. It's also a time to begin planning for the upcoming 2027 church year. Looking ahead and planning for the future ministries of FBC is vital. It takes good stewardship, careful planning, and most of all faithful prayer to present a working budget that covers the physical needs and ministry visions of FBC.

So, during the week of September 13th-18th, Budget Request forms will be given to those leading our different committees, ministry teams, and those in charge of operating & administrative expenses. The Finance Committee will be glad to assist you in completing these forms, and we appreciate your due diligence in reviewing your needs for the upcoming year and returning these forms to the church office or to me. **The Budget Request forms should be returned no later than Monday, October 5th.**



As always, the Finance Team is here to answer any questions you might have about the financial status of our church. Let's start planning for a great 2027!!!

Sheila Anderson, Treasurer

COFFEE & CHRIST

WHEN: Thursday, September 10

TIME: 10:00 am

PROGRAM: OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOEBOXES

SPEAKER: Guest Speaker from Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse that delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world in JESUS' name.

Since 1913, more than 244 million children in over 175 countries and territories have received a shoebox gift.

In 2025, over 12.2 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide. 81,000 churches collected shoebox gifts. In 2026 the goal is 12.8 million shoebox gifts.

Isn't it incredible? How these shoebox gifts touch the lives of millions of children! The joy, the smiles, it changes lives.

BRO BRENT, PROVERBS 3:5-6

2026 SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

· FBC FLORALA CHURCHWIDE GOAL:
700 BOXES

· SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 2026 - BOXES DUE

· WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4, 2026 -
CHILDREN'S PACKING PARTY

· COLLECTION WEEK: MONDAY, NOV. 16 – MONDAY NOV. 23

· POSSIBLE MISSION TRIP AT THE END OF NOVEMBER OR FIRST OF DECEMBER. SEE BRENT FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED.

· SUNDAY SCHOOL FRIENDLY COMPETITION FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS ONLY:

GROUP 1: SARA & DONNA'S CLASS VS WADE'S CLASS

GROUP 2: JEFF'S CLASS, GREG'S CLASS, JEREMY'S CLASS WILL
COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER.

Millions of children around the world are being 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



September 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Men's Prayer
8:00am Tuesday

		1 ↓ 	2 MENU <u>DINNER</u> Fried Fish, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw	3	4	5
6 NEW TIMES START FOR SS CLASS AND WORSHIP 9:15 & 10:30	7 CLOSED Office Closed for Labor Day	8	9 <u>DINNER</u> Chicken Fingers, Mac-N-Cheese, Green Beans,	10 Coffee & Christ 10am	11	12
13 Baby Dedication Grandparents Day	14	15	16 <u>DINNER</u> Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans	17	18 Food Distribution at CSC 9am-1pm	19
20	21 Beacon Articles Due <u>TODAY</u>	22	23 <u>DINNER</u> Hamburger Gravy w/ Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert	24 COG to Plateful in Cracker Barrel in Crestview	25 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 5:30PM	26
27 Fully Flood Floral 3:30-5:00pm	28	29	30 <u>DINNER</u> Pizza, Salad			

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!**

SAVE THE DATE

**145th Church
HOMECOMING**

OCTOBER 4 • 10:00 AM



SPECIAL SINGING



WORSHIP SERVICE



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Guest Speaker

BRO. TOMMY FIKE

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST
FOR COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



**FBC
FLORAL**



Come celebrate God's faithfulness PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!



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AT 10:00 AM**

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