

SEPTEMBER, 2025  
VOL. XXIX, NO. 9

# The MESSENGER

560 E. BROAD ST. WEST POINT, MS 39773 662-494-4213 [www.firstbaptistwp.org](http://www.firstbaptistwp.org)



God has blessed me in making me a part of First Baptist Church's life at this point in time. I am grateful for our past relationship, but the last few months of pursuing Jesus with you has been a wonderful experience. The church has a wonderful history, and – as I watch the Lord work among you – I am convinced the church also has a wonderful future.

The key to this brilliant future is the immediate presence of the Spirit of Jesus. In all you do, make sure to live in His presence and pursue Him together. Jesus Himself, in John's Gospel, tells us how to remain in His blessed presence. And it's not complicated.

“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21, ESV)

Here's the sequence of events and the promise revealed by Jesus:

Our love for Jesus is proven when we obey Him – not from our own strength or a sense of obligation, but from an overflow of love and gratitude. As our love for Jesus is proven by our loving obedience, we enjoy the love of the Father. This enjoyment of God's love necessarily includes Jesus' spiritual presence with us. He gives us Himself.

If we keep His commands, the Father loves us, and the Son loves us. As the Son loves us, He will reveal Himself to us. He will manifest Himself to us.

This is the secret to everything. It's the secret of victorious Christian living. It's the secret of fruitfulness. It's the secret of joy. It's the secret of revival.

So, family of God, follow after Jesus with all your heart. If you do this, you will enjoy God's love and His special presence with you. He will lead you into all the blessing He has in store for you. I, for one, cannot wait to see His glory increasingly revealed in you.

Bro. Russell

The next **Men's Ministry Breakfast** will be September 28. Our guest speaker that morning will be Brandi Morgan, wife of WPHS head football coach Brett Morgan. Brandi has gone full time with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, primarily serving the women's softball and soccer programs at Mississippi State. We will be taking up a love offering to help support Brandi in her ministry, so men please come prepared to give.

Men, there is still time to plug into one of our **Man Church small groups**. We are studying Real Men of the Bible, looking at the good, the bad and the ugly of these men and how we can grow in our own relationship with Jesus. There is a time spot for you so come join us.



Around 35 ladies have enjoyed each Monday Lunch Break Bible study throughout August on Prayer Tools. We've talked about praying BIG, unprecedented prayers. We look forward in the future to another lunch break Bible time.

What a great night we had at Pearls and Proverbs! We had around 87 ladies enjoy studying Proverbs 31. If you missed it, make plans now for the second annual **Fall Ladies Gathering** on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00 in the fellowship hall. Lea Turner will be our speaker. More info to come later about this event.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we faithfully search for our next pastor. Your love and prayers have been felt throughout this search!

Thanks,  
Pastor Search Committee



**Our Church Goal:**  
**\$6,000**

The Margaret Lackey State Offering is allocated to touch lives in Mississippi and beyond with the gospel and bring hope to hurting people as its goal has grown to \$2.5 million. Some key missions efforts are ministering at camps and campuses, literacy and deaf ministries, church planting, cross-cultural evangelism, and short-term missions.

Learn more at [margaretlackey.com](http://margaretlackey.com).



# GINGER'S NOTES

Our Children, Youth and Adults will be leading us with a Multi-Gen Choir August 31! It is always wonderful to experience worship with many generations. The Psalmists tells us: "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts!"

**WORSHIP CHOIR** rehearsals are going strong each Wednesday night in the choir room! We are working on music for our Worship Concert to be held October 5 during Morning Worship. We will have a **BONUS REHEARSAL** for this Concert Sunday night, September 28 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. It will include some of our favorite songs and anthems. We will introduce Christmas music Wednesday night, September 10 during regular choir rehearsal! We will take a look at the music that we will be presenting December 7 during Morning Worship. We will extend our rehearsal

time to 7:15 on Wednesday nights to allow more time to rehearse Christmas music! It is always a great time to join choir or return if you haven't been singing with us for a while.

We are planning a **WALK-THROUGH NATIVITY** here at FBC December 13-14. We will have another interest/planning meeting Wednesday night, September 24 at 7:00 in the FELLOWSHIP HALL. Please come if you are at all interested. We will need many volunteers, there is a place for everyone!

**YOUTH CHOIR** will rehearse every Sunday afternoon in September at 5:00. We welcome any student who would like to join us!

**Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra auditions** will be held here at FBC on Saturday, September 13 from 1:30-4:00. The tour will be in

June, 2026. Students interested in auditioning need to see me ASAP to prepare and get your paper work in!

He keeps me singing!



**Covered Dish Luncheon**  
Thursday, September 11  
11:30 a.m.  
We will fellowship, eat, sing some hymns, and find out what is planned for the year!  
Point City Drugs will be here at 11:00 to give flu shots!  
Meat and rolls are provided.

**Church-wide Wedding Shower for Madison Glusenkamp and Lake Kellett**  
Sunday, September 21  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Bridal Registries: Petal Pushers, Rose Gift Company, Pottery Barn, William Sonoma, Amazon, and Elizabeth Clair's in Tupelo



*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*  
Matthew 13:44

In KidMin our main point for this lesson would be "Jesus is our Treasure!" But is He? Would we give up all to gain Him? I don't mean to gain His blessing, or to gain heaven, but to gain the God-Man Himself. The ultimate reward of a life of faith is Jesus Himself. Is that enough for you?

### 3 Steps to Treasuring Christ:

1. Prayerfully approach the Word, ASKING God for greater knowledge of Him. "Lord, I want to see!"
2. Daily approach the Word EXPECTING it to work in you whether you feel it or not. It does not return void! (Is. 55:11)
3. Start SERVING. Don't wait. Serve in weakness, but serve knowing that He is equipping you for just what He has for you. (KidMin is a great place to start!)

### Elementary Sunday School:

We've been in Genesis for a whole year! The next unit they will begin Exodus with Moses, the Wandering Israelites, and the 10 Commandments. Our Sunday School Curriculum for 1st-6th grade covers Genesis to Revelation in 4 years. It follows the 7 Cs of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross and Consummation. Our Sunday School teachers are wonderful! Their preparation and dedication to teaching the Bible to our kids is a blessing to our church and families.

### September Sunday Nights:

Bible Buddies for preschoolers will be led by Wes & Michelle Williamson. Bible "Bruhs" for 1st-6th grade will focus on Bible skills and memory with Mrs. Regina and me (Mrs. Joedee).

### September Wednesday Nights:

We've finished our look at Samson and his "Hairy Situations" and are moving to a study on Gideon and being "Called to Courage." I've enjoyed teaching the Bible in the large group time. We've got some awesome kids! I love hearing their thoughts and hearts. Our small group leaders love them too. I get a little peek into their relationships with each other and to see their care is so encouraging.

September 7 we will have our **First Kids Volunteer Huddle** at 8:30 downstairs. That is also Grandparents Day, and the kids have a little something prepared to celebrate our grandparents.

September 14 will be **Family Sunday School** for our 5th and 6th graders. Parents and kids will meet together for Sunday School that morning. Breakfast provided.



(preschool/1st & 2nd)

- 9/7 - Brooke & Vanessa/no 1st & 2nd grade
- 9/14 - Ann & Michelle/Jade & Kaitlyn
- 9/21 - Shanna F. & Hannah/Jade & Joedee
- 9/28 - Wesley & Taylor/Jade & Lacey

*A THANK YOU NOTE has been received from Wayne and Judy Ray.*

*CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Betty Kirby who passed away August 5.*

# First Students

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since He who promised is faithful.  
Hebrews 10:24

Church family,

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." This is the truth that we are looking into in our youth small groups over this next month. As we enter into September, we will be getting deeper into our study on the reliability of scripture. Our study is an apologetics based study that will help equip our students to know what they believe and why they believe it as well as equipping them to do as they are instructed in 2 Peter 3:15, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for

the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

As we have entered this time in the year that we take a break from trips and conferences, our focus goes back into our routine of Wednesday night worship. We have a great group of students that help lead us in worship each week and wonderful small groups leaders that take the time to not only teach material, but they get to know our students and pour into their lives. Please be in prayer for our students as they continue to learn and grow in their small groups over this next month and in the months to come after. Be in prayer for our adults that will be leading the small groups as well.

I am also excited to be able to announce that we have a new Student Ministry Assistant, Randi Ferryman. Randi is already and will be a great addition to our student ministry. She has a heart for

our students and has already begun to love on them and build relationships with them. Be in prayer for Randi as well as she gets adjusted to not only working with the students but working with me! I know that she will be a great help to our student ministry and to the kingdom. We have much more to look forward to in the coming months for our student ministry, so make sure that you are signed up for reminders if you are not already.

In Christ,  
Joseph Blount

Joy Seitz WMU  
Tuesday, September 16  
10:00 a.m. in the library  
All ladies are welcome!

**Any groups (deacons, women's ministry, men's ministry, missions, small groups, committees, choirs, ensembles, children, youth, and adults) who are planning events or meetings in October must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by September 22. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)**

		 <h2 style="margin: 0;">September</h2>						
		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MORNING WORSHIP - 10:15 a.m.</b>			<b>1</b> LABOR DAY Church Office & ECM Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Supper - 5:00 p.m. Children's Large Group - 5:30 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>7</b>	KidMin Volunteer Breakfast - 8:30  Praying Paul's Prayers for Our Church, Bible Bruhs, Youth Choir - 4 p.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Children's Mission, Student Worship, Prayer Meeting, Worship Choir, and Ladies' Small Group - 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>  Forever Young Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (flu shots at 11)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> HOST ALL STATE YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS 1:30-4:00 p.m.
	<b>14</b>	Praying Paul's Prayers for Our Church, Bible Bruhs, Youth Choir - 5 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Joy Seitz WMU Meeting 10:00 a.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>21</b>	Wedding Shower 1:00-3:00  Praying Paul's Prayers for Our Church, Bible Bruhs, Youth Choir - 5 p.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> See You At The Pole  Walk-Thru Nativity Meeting - 7:00	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>28</b>	Men's Breakfast 7:30  Praying Paul's Prayers for Our Church, Bible Bruhs, Youth Choir - 5 p.m. Bonus Choir Rehearsal - 6 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
						Looking Ahead.... October 5 - Worship Concert October 26 - Crocktober October 28 - Ladies' Fall Gathering		



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

### September 3

Hamburger Steak  
Rice/Gravy  
English Peas  
Biscuit  
Banana Pudding

### September 17

Spaghetti  
Corn  
Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Chocolate Pie

### September 10

Chicken Strips  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Green Beans  
Biscuit  
Chocolate Chip Cookie

### September 24

Baked Potato  
Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Brownie Trifle

### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24
Sunday School	193	205	221	201
Morning Worship	288	337	302	305

### BUDGET NEEDS

Average Weekly Budget Receipts for July

\$16,862.65

Weekly Budget Needs

\$20,909.99

### SEPTEMBER 7

**Nursery**  
Dave Ketchum  
Liz Ketchum  
Katie Oswalt  
**Ushers**  
William Allen  
Will Ketchum  
Brad Cox  
Bill Lantz  
Steve Tribble  
Jonas Robinson

### SEPTEMBER 14

**Nursery**  
Brad Price  
Perry Price  
**Ushers**  
Calvin Boyd  
Jon Oswald  
Jason Reed  
Steve White  
Scott Ross  
Gregg Kaiser  
Wayne Ray

### SEPTEMBER 21

**Nursery**  
Nikki Stafford  
Aiden Stafford  
Kimberly Allen  
**Ushers**  
Victor Suggs  
Roger Burton  
Heath Brand  
Jerry Ishee  
Barry Bryan  
Dave Ketchum

### SEPTEMBER 28

**Nursery**  
John Freeman  
Sherry Freeman  
Faith Smith  
**Ushers**  
John Freeman  
John Ingram  
Jamey Ballard  
Sherman Berry  
Ben Lawley  
Mark Jessop

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### July Online Giving

\$17,390.40

### July Online ECM Deposits

\$17,828.50

### August 3, 2025

Undesignated \$18,658.00  
Child Care \$13,022.82  
Total Operating \$31,680.82  
Designated \$16,135.00  
Total Deposit \$47,815.82

### August 10, 2025

Undesignated \$36,924.00  
Reimbursements \$605.00  
Child Care \$8,486.00  
Total Operating \$46,015.00  
Designated \$1,212.00  
Total Deposit \$47,227.00

### August 17, 2025

Undesignated \$10,980.00  
Reimbursements \$368.00  
Child Care \$14,281.02  
Total Operating \$25,629.02  
Designated \$462.00  
Total Deposit \$26,091.02

### August 24, 2025

Undesignated \$13,212.99  
Reimbursements \$435.75  
Child Care \$3,385.00  
Total Operating \$17,033.74  
Designated \$709.09  
Total Deposit \$17,742.83



I will say of the  
**LORD**

He is my refuge and my fortress:  
In Him will I trust...

- Psalm 91:2

## First Baptist Church

Russell Mord  
Interim Pastor

Ginger Fowler  
Minister of Music

Joseph Blount  
Minister of Students

Joedee Robinson  
Minister of Children  
and Family Ministry

Sarah Burton  
ECM Director

Riley Turnipseed  
Music Ministry Intern

Randi Ferryman  
Student Ministry Intern